

Wednesday October 9 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Greenland D 4.00	Norway NK 16
Alexandria L 2.50	Hong Kong HK 25	Oman OR 1.00
Athens A 5.50	India I 2.00	Pakistan P 7.00
Bangkok B 5.50	Indonesia I 1.50	Poland Z 1.50
Bombay B 5.50	Iran I 1.50	Portugal P 2.00
Buenos Aires B 5.50	Japan J 1.00	Romania R 1.00
Calcutta C 5.50	Korea S 1.50	Saudi Arabia S 1.00
Canton C 5.50	Malaysia M 1.50	Singapore S 1.00
Cebu C 5.50	Netherlands G 4.00	Spain P 2.00
Colombo C 5.50	Sweden S 1.00	Switzerland S 1.00
Damascus D 5.50	Switzerland S 1.00	Taiwan T 1.00
Dhaka D 5.50	Thailand T 1.00	Turkey T 1.00
Hankow H 5.50	USA US 2.75	USA US 2.75

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,679

Jonathan Steele with the Taliban

Tyranny in Kabul

G2 with European weather



The last word from the teenage terror

Treasure's final fling

Parents, G2 pages 8/9



Society

Fighting to keep the rivers flowing

G2 page 11

Labour and Lib Dem leaders demand cash-for-questions tribunal 'This damage to democracy'

Ashdown and Blair urge public inquiry

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown made a dramatic intervention into the cash-for-questions affair last night, telling John Major that his proposed inquiry was inadequate.

Joining together in a united political act for the first time, they warned the Prime Minister that the issue was now raising serious constitutional questions and causing widespread public concern at the "damage being done to our democratic system".

Mr Major has already said that the case of the disgraced former Tory minister, Neil Hamilton, and his links with the lobbyist Ian Greer should be investigated by the parliamentary ombudsman, Sir Gordon Downey.

Mr Major, clearly angered at being drawn into the affair with all its evidence of parliamentary sleaze, has demanded that Sir Gordon should proceed as quickly as possible and his findings published. But last night, in an extraordinary move, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown sent him a joint letter saying that Sir Gordon's inquiry would be inadequate because he has insufficient powers.

They said: "Only an inquiry sitting in public, headed by a distinguished judge, would attract the public confidence which the situation requires. Such tribunals have traditionally been appointed where there are serious allegations of corruption or misconduct in public life, which require thorough, impartial and public investigation. They offered procedures and powers ideally suited to this case."

Their letter was prompted by the disclosure of a memo written in 1994 by David Willetts, then a whip and now Pymester-General. The memo, which was sent to the two leaders by the Guardian, revealed that Mr Willetts had discussed the Hamilton cash-for-questions scandal with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, at that time chairman of the Commons select committee on members' interest.

The note showed that Mr Willetts had advised the committee to either A, claim that the cash-for-questions allegations against Mr Hamilton were sub judice and so could not be discussed, or B, they could "exploit the good Tory majority" on the committee when considering the matter.

Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown say in their letter: "The document suggests political interference in a committee which has a quasi-judicial role. It

will raise in the public mind fears that there may be attempts to bring similar pressures to bear on the committee of standards and privileges."

They add that investigation of a matter relating to political interference is outside Sir Gordon's remit, and that "public interest demands a totally impartial inquiry which is seen to be independent."

They call on Mr Major to establish a statutory inquiry under the 1921 Tribunals of Inquiry Act, a course which the Guardian has also been urging.

Downing Street last night said the position remained the same, that the Prime Minister had absolute confidence in Sir Gordon. However, Mr Major will find it politically difficult to ignore such a joint request, and will come under further pressure when the Commons meets again next week. Both parties will call for a debate.

At the Conservative conference in Bournemouth, ministers and MPs dug in behind Sir Gordon, insisting he could conduct a thorough inquiry and there was no need for an independent judge.

Sir Gordon last night declined to comment.

Senior Conservatives insisted yesterday that the Willetts memo was simply a matter of a whip conducting an intelligence-gathering role.

Mr Willetts, who has since been promoted to minister in charge of deregulation, would not be drawn yesterday beyond expressing confidence in Sir Gordon.

At a fringe meeting on standards in public life and openness in government, he said: "I am very pleased that Sir Gordon Downey will have a full inquiry on the basis of all the documents and will be able to reach a clear conclusion on the basis of every single piece of paper that could possibly be relevant."

Tom King, the Conservative representative on the Nolan committee which scrutinises standards in public life, also stood by Sir Gordon. He said: "There has been a lot of rubbish said in the press and on radio, that he is going to be a rather weak reed, that he does not have the power to send for papers and persons, and he lacks the authority. It is all rubbish."

Mr King, a former defence secretary, said that technically Sir Gordon did not have the powers but in reality any time he needed the production of papers or witnesses he only had to go to the committee on privileges and they would be given to him.



Old Tory, old danger... Lady Thatcher at the Conservative conference yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: NIEL MARNS

PM and Thatcher kiss and make up

Michael White, Political Editor

LADY Thatcher publicly buried the hatchet with John Major last night after six years of backstairs sniping when she exchanged a kiss with her successor on the opening day of the Conservatives' conference, and finally conceded that Britain is still in "safe hands".

The former prime minister's words at a private meeting in Bournemouth were the climax of a tightly-negotiated day's programme, and came after Mr Major had lavishly praised her for launching the Thatcher Revolution in 1979 — which he was continuing.

"Margaret, you started this revolution because you challenged what socialists stood for and changed the whole direction of this country," said Mr Major.

"A fifth election defeat and we will have killed socialism for good... it is a prize worth fighting for."

"Thank you, John, for those kind words — it is good to know that the affairs of this nation are still in such safe hands," replied Lady Thatcher — who had failed on five continents to be fulsome about the man who took over when she was ousted in 1990.

The sight of the two exchanging even guarded flattery when they have feuded all year over Europe and "One Nation" Toryism was an achievement for party managers. Mr Major reportedly avoided his 70-year-old predecessor at a Downing Street party last month after his fury at her donation earlier in the summer to Sir James Goldsmith's European Foundation.

Yesterday's meeting is a measure of the acute fear

senior Conservatives share that power is finally slipping away from them after nearly 18 years. Neither leader wants to be blamed.

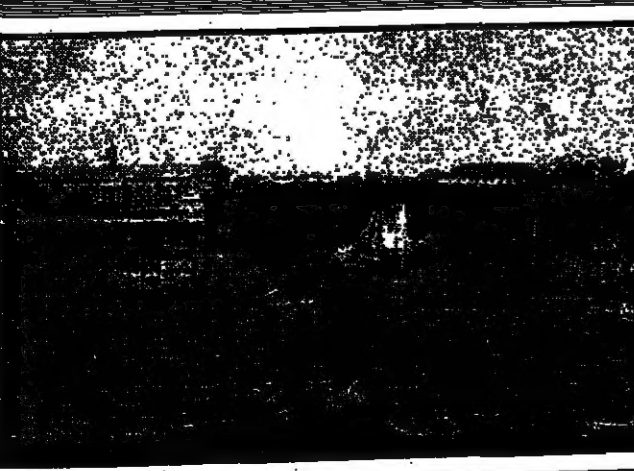
Lady Thatcher, who joined the conference platform before lunch, told her evening audience that Labour spin doctors were presenting last week's Blackpool conference as "one big revivalist rally of born-again Tory converts".

Yet if they had won the past four elections they would have had "nothing to convert to at the fifth". For they fought us all the way — on tax cuts, union reform, privatisation and Cold War defence.

"If you want Conservative policies the best way of getting them is clear," she said. "It is to re-elect a Conservative government. Why settle for second best?"

Mr Major told the audience Britain had been in "a very poor state" when Mrs Thatcher won in 1979, a watershed election like the next one, he suggested.

Tory conference, page 4; Leader comment, page 8



Take two halves of a Canaletto, add Cuba and the National Trust and what do you have?

Turn to page 3 for the answer



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Conference sketch

Let them eat cattle-cake



Simon Hoggart

THE stage at the Tory conference looks stark and sinister, the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise without the homely touches...

system playing the Beatles' Come Together, though this is not the sort of union John Lennon had in mind...

First big attack in Northern Ireland for more than two years raises fears of full-scale return to violence

IRA claims army HQ bombs

David Starvoek Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA last night admitted responsibility for the double bomb attack on the army's headquarters in Northern Ireland...

network, that two 800lb bombs had been planted and detonated at the army complex in Lisburn, Co Antrim...

had been in retaliation for the death of Diarmuid O'Neill, shot by police in London a fortnight ago...

once again manning vehicle checkpoints. Loyalist paramilitary leaders were also meeting to consider their response to the outrage...

employee in her 30s, also has head injuries and burns and one of the men has a broken thigh...

fore the IRA's claim that the attack was "entirely consistent with a terrorist organisation that declared an end to the ceasefire which it had proclaimed in August 1994"

Dole ends up where he started after a long day on the road

Ian Katz on the campaign trail



Bob Dole, with New Jersey's Governor Christine Todd Whitman, greets supporters from his Asphalt 1 campaign bus

IT WAS difficult to avoid the conclusion that the schedule of Bob Dole's bus tour of New Jersey was a metaphor for his campaign...

state in a bus touting a 30 per cent income tax cut. "There's something magic about riding on a bus with Governor Whitman," Mr Dole said...

Looking tanned and casual in a blue blazer and khaki chinos, he did not look like a man starting into the jaws of a landslide defeat...

Dole's last rally of the day. A few young children had been arranged on a truck with a hoarding that said: "Vote for Dole, Defender of America's Destiny"

As his motorcade sped along the New Jersey turnpike back towards New York city, one campaign glaucous glanced out at the long traffic jams created by sealing off the highway...

Unfazed, Mr Dole boarded his bus, an old converted Greyhound-style coach, dubbed Asphalt 1. After a while he seemed to warm to his new form of transport...

Review

Throwing light on creative talent

Robert Dawson Scott

Dark Lights Tramway, Glasgow

GLASGOW'S Tramway, the old tram garage that was pressed into theatrical service for Peter Brook's Mahabharata eight years ago...

screens it follows Isis's search for her brother Osiris. Your Egyptian mythology would need to be sharp to catch most of what is going on...

Dead end for 'SAS' cabbie

Lawrence Donegan

THE bizarre double-life of a Welsh taxi driver finally ended yesterday when he was jailed for 18 months after a trial which owed much to Bravo Two Zero and even more to Billy Liar...

bill at a reception for 40 people, telling hotel staff it would be paid by the Ministry of Defence. Peter Jacobs, prosecuting, told the court that Mr Jones's deception started in 1991...

sored walks and pocketing the proceeds. Mr Jones, of Porthcawl, admitted a total of 23 charges including stealing £5,000 from the British Institute for Brain Injured Children...

'Public inquiry essential'

Ashdown and Blair plead with PM to 'restore confidence'

continued from page 1 political interference in a Committee which had a quasi-judicial role. It will raise in the public mind fears that there may be attempts to bring similar pressures to bear on the Committee on Standards and Privileges...

the case. Great public concern has been expressed, and calls made for the establishment of a tribunal under the 1921 Act. It would clearly be wrong to ask Sir Gordon to investigate a matter relating to political interference...

We therefore call for a Statutory Inquiry under the 1921 Act. You were quite rightly categorical when you said on television that you wanted the matter 'settled'...

Yours sincerely, Tony Blair Paddy Ashdown

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY PRESENTS...

'...MINING THE ARCHIVES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE THE THIRD AT 50. UNEARTHING SOME OF THE FINEST TREASURES FROM ITS 50 YEAR HISTORY. FESTIVITIES TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. EVERY FRIDAY AT 3:00PM.

Advertisement for 'Just' magazine featuring a portrait of a woman and the text 'Behind the forces, clever thought the Britain are Sarah Boseley'.



Canaletto's Chelsea, a match of two halves... how the painting looked after the Guardian reattached the right half, which is in Cuba's National Museum, to the left, which belongs to the National Trust

MONTAGE: ROGER TOOTH

Just one Canaletto: give it to me

The National Trust wants to reunite a landscape, half of which it owns: the other half is in Cuba. Dan Glaister reports on the struggle to get the complete picture

FOR the National Trust it is disheartening news. For the government of Cuba it is a matter of national pride. The two institutions, not previously thought to have much in common, each own half of a painting by the 18th-century Italian artist Antonio Canaletto.

Last year the Trust approached the Cuban ministry of culture to buy the half on show in the Museo Nacional in Havana, but received no reply. Speaking to the Guardian yesterday, the museum turned down the offer.

"We've been approached several times over the years," said Manuel Crespo, head of European art at the museum, "but we've always said no. They can always ask again, but the museum's position is that we have no intention of selling the picture."

However, he then appeared to contradict himself, saying:

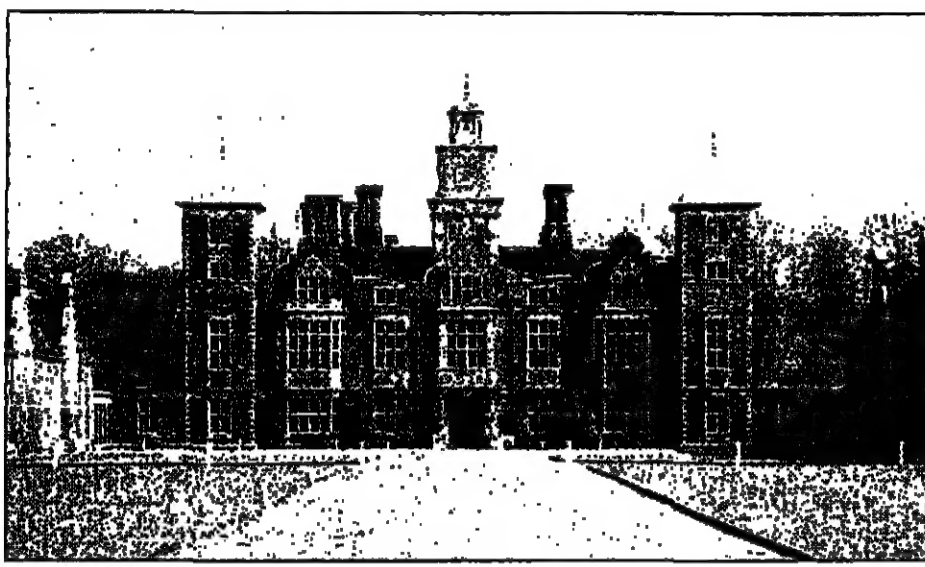
"As national property it ultimately belongs to the ministry of culture, and if the Trust were to persist, perhaps they would consider selling the painting."

The Trust's art adviser, Alistair Laing, who wrote to the Cuban ministry, said: "No wonder they didn't reply to my letter. They must be bored with other people approaching them."

"It would be splendid to arrange a purchase or swap, but it is almost a pipedream because so many things have to be right — the condition of the painting, whether the Cubans would sell, and what it might be worth."

Estimates have put the price of the picture at £2 million, a substantial foreign currency earning for Cuba. A spokeswoman at the Cuban Embassy in London said: "One million pounds? That would come in handy."

The painting, *Chelsea From*



Blickling Hall, Norfolk, where half the picture has hung since 1768. PHOTOGRAPH: BRYN COLTON

The Thames, was painted between 1746 and 1748, one of several Canaletto painted during a 10-year stay in London. It may have been commissioned by Chelsea Hospital, which features in the half now in Cuba.

"The Cuban side does have Chelsea Hospital, whereas

our side has no distinguishing features," said Mr Laing. The painting also shows Rayleigh House.

Canaletto advertised the painting but was unable to sell it, despite being fairly well known. Shortly before his death in 1768 at the age of 71, he decided to cut it in half.

The left-hand half was sold to the 11th Marquis of Lothian, whose family owned the 17th-century Blickling Hall in Norfolk where it has remained ever since. The hall and its contents were handed over to the National Trust in 1940. As late as 1955, the painting was thought to be not by

Canaletto, but by Samuel Scott.

The right-hand half of *Chelsea From The Thames* was sold at Christie's in 1802 to a French collector, Paul D'Algremon. It then disappeared before ending up in the gallery of a Cuban collector, Oscar Cinetas. Forty years ago, shortly before the Cuban revolution, he donated it to his country's national art museum.

Gabrielle Finelli, a curator at the National Gallery in London, said: "Although Manet's *Execution of Maximilian* was cut in half, it certainly wasn't common practice."

Mr Crespo confirmed that the Cuban half was in good condition. The two halves are of slightly different sizes, as the Trust's half was cut at some point, probably to be framed. The Cuban half is 50in wide by 42in high, while the Trust's half is the same width, but only 38in high. Nevertheless, the two sides match and could be rejoined relatively easily.

A deflated Mr Laing said yesterday: "If there is in perfect condition, that rather raises the question of whether ours is."

Portrait of the artist



Giovanni Antonio Canal — Canaletto — was the dominant figure in the 18th-century Venetian school of *vedute* (skilled view) painting. He was born in Venice on October 18, 1697 and probably became known as Canaletto to distinguish him from his father, a theatrical scene painter.

After working with his father, Canaletto went to Rome in 1719 where he decided to devote himself to

topographical painting. He swiftly gained recognition, and on his return to Venice enjoyed contact with several wealthy foreign patrons. During the 1730s, the age of the European grand tour, he was kept busy by the demand for souvenir views of Venice. The War of the Austrian Succession in 1740 led to a fall in demand for his Venice pictures, however, and Canaletto moved further afield.

In 1746 he went to England, where he stayed until 1755, mainly in London. After his return to Venice he was elected to the Venetian Academy in 1763. He died there on April 20, 1768.

Because of his popularity with English grand tourists, many more of his works can be found in Britain than in Italy. His masterpiece, *The Stonemason's Yard*, is in the National Gallery in London, while several of his views of Venice are on show at the Tate Gallery in London in *The Grand Tour: The Lure of Italy in the 18th Century*, which opens tomorrow.

Clarke axes £400m City tax break

Patrick Donovan, City Editor

CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke yesterday reinforced speculation that the Government is preparing a give away budget as he shrugged aside the interests of his most powerful City allies with plans to save £400 million a year by stopping tax relief on companies distributing surplus cash or shares to Stock Market investors.

The surprise move caused turmoil in the City as it will jeopardise more than £1.5 billion worth of investor payouts being prepared by some of Britain's biggest companies. Three payout proposals worth more than £200 million were last night put on hold as the City reacted to the news.

Reuters, the huge news agency and business information group, suspended a dividend bonanza worth more

than £200 million due to be approved by its shareholders today. Yorkshire Electricity said it was reviewing plans to distribute £120 million and Alders, the department store, admitted there was now doubt over moves to give investors £50 million worth of special dividends.

More than a dozen of Britain's largest companies have used the loophole to boost City support by distributing hundreds of millions of pounds to investors in the form of cash and free shares.

They include National Power, PowerGen, NatWest, Barclays and Boots.

This year so many companies are looking for ways of boosting their City standing with spare cash from booming profits that the value of these deals is expected to reach £1.5 billion.

That compares with £1 billion a year ago — and represents the equivalent of 0.2p in the pound in income tax to

the Treasury in lost tax income. The 24-year-old tax break allows City institutions to claw back 25 per cent tax on the value of the payout. This option is not provided to ordinary investors.

Mr Clarke said yesterday: "We have seen recently companies buying their own shares or paying special dividends in such a way that the proceeds end up almost entirely in the hands of those who are entitled to payment of a tax credit. This has costs for the Exchequer and if action is not taken soon that cost would escalate."

Labour criticised the Government for not moving sooner. "The Tories are closing the stable door after many of the horses have bolted," said the shadow chief secretary, Alistair Darling.

He added: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear."

Leading accountants Deloitte & Touche warned that

the closure would have major implications for companies attempting hostile takeovers, as many corporate predators exploit the tax loop-hole to make their offer more attractive to big City investors. And they warned that hundreds of thousands of small investors who hold shares through PEP funds could see the value of their funds affected.

"This could lead to a rethink on how the City does its business," the firm warned last night.

Major City firms were angered by the move. "The revenue crackdown is over-kill," said accountants Ernst & Young. "The timing of this move is clearly linked to Reuters' special dividend but it has wide-ranging effects. It will be a major impediment to over-capitalised companies returning cash to their shareholders."

City turmoil, and Notebook, page 11

Sun apologises to Princess Diana over video 'hoax of the decade'

Vivek Chaudhary and Sarah Boseley

A VIDEO allegedly showing the Princess of Wales and her former lover, James Hewitt, cavorting together was last night declared to be "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade".

Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun newspaper which obtained the video and reproduced stills from it across five pages, said the newspaper had been "conned by cunning fraudsters" and apologised to the princess and Mr Hewitt for any hurt or offence caused.

The Sun — which has been criticised for invading the princess's privacy — justified publishing the story yesterday as proof of her allegation that she was under surveillance.

The video showed a couple in a house, allegedly filmed through French windows from the garden at Highgrove, Prince Charles's Gloucestershire home, in playful mood. A woman, claimed to be the princess, is seen throwing a cushion at a man claimed to be Hewitt, and riding on his back as he crawls on all fours. She is also seen removing her tracksuit trousers and sweatshirt to reveal what the Sun describes as "bra and pants".

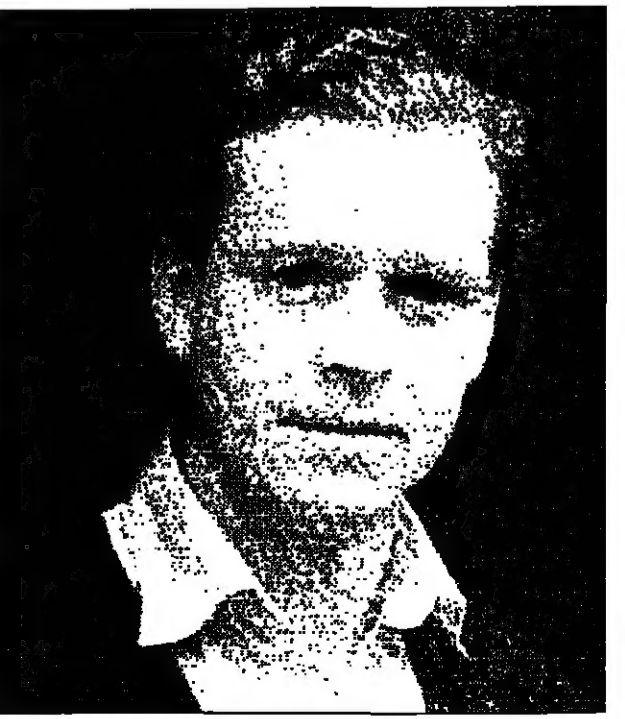
Mr Higgins refused to say who was behind the hoax, but added: "I take full responsibility for this mistake and will apologise in writing to both the princess and Mr Hewitt for any offence caused. I believe the Sun and myself were the victims of a sophisticated hoax deliberately aimed at embarrassing myself and the Sun newspaper."

Kensington Palace said last night: "The Princess of Wales has authorised me to tell you that she does not recognise either herself or Major James Hewitt in these photographs."

The Sun said last night it was offered the film last week at a clandestine meeting with two men who acted as intermediaries. It added: "We made our best endeavours to corroborate the contents with independent witnesses confirming the apparent identity of the princess and Mr



Conned... the front page of yesterday's Sun



The princess at a fundraising event for the London Lighthouse Aids charity yesterday (top). And above, James Hewitt outside his Devon home yesterday morning. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN STILLWELL

MP tries to take a load off the backs of French schoolchildren

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

MARION is 13. She weighs 48 kilograms. She picks up her satchel and stands on the scales. They register 60 kilograms. How much does Marion's satchel weigh?

Faced with the conclusion that French children are carrying at least a quarter of their bodyweight in textbooks, Marion's father, Jean-Yves Haby, an MP, was given the go-ahead yesterday for a parliamentary vote on the content of schoolbags.

Mr Haby, the son of a former education minister, has drawn up a law under which

children would be banned from carrying more than 10 per cent of their bodyweight in schoolbags, exercise books, pencils, pens and crayons.

But his suggested education reform met with months of resistance from the education minister, Francois Bayrou.

"I was ribbed by colleagues who said I should have better things to do with my time," Mr Haby said.

After broaching his survey and canvassing medical opinion, Mr Haby came up with evidence that lockless French schools can damage your health.

"The satchel-to-bodyweight ratio is at its worst during the

most critical growing period. It is not unusual for 11-year-olds to carry up to half their own bodyweight to and from school every day. The ratio improves later when children become confident about what they need to carry with them."

Mr Haby, who wants textbooks to be printed in several volumes and exercise sheets to be provided in ring binders, has drawn support from orthopaedists. But he said many teachers believe the law would lead to lockers — seen as a disruptive "American" influence.

Book publishers, widely blamed for thicker textbooks and creating exercise-book

offshoots, are said to be in favour of the legislation, which might create a market for home-and-school duplicate books.

Luggage manufacturers have responded with the launch this year of satchels on wheels and rucksacks with inflatable straps.

"The inflatable straps are mostly a gimmick and the satchels on wheels have not caught on because children think they look like shopping trolleys," Mr Haby said.

His proposed law, under which head teachers would be responsible for applying the 10 per cent rule, will be put to the national assembly during the autumn session.

Behind the silent steel doors of Britain's police forces, clever and courageous women who thought they could do the most macho job in Britain are reduced to tears and sick leave.

Sarah Boseley and Maggie O'Kane

Inside Story, G2 page 4

EUROPE Tebbit and Redwood lead right calls to rule out single currency before election

BSE Major offers sympathy and says he will try to ease beef industry's plight



Welsh Secretary, William Hague, and Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth unfurling the Union flag at the conference

Hogg promises beef aid as PM meets farmers

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister yesterday said he "understood and sympathised" with farmers over the BSE crisis and promised to try to do everything he could to ease their problems.

As angry farmers converged on Bournemouth earlier, Mr Hogg told the conference an extra £16.6 million would go on clearing the backlog in the slaughter programme aimed at curbing

BSE. Another £29 million would be spent on direct cash payments to supplement the incomes of beef producers.

Mr Major met the National Farmers Union president, Sir David Nash, and his deputy, Ben Gill. Afterwards Sir David said Mr Major had reassured farmers, although some felt betrayed that the value of their animals had fallen last week.

Mr Hogg acknowledged that the BSE threat amounted to the "greatest farming crisis since the war" but condemned the EU's worldwide ban on British beef exports as "wholly unjustified" and urged it to recognise that the disease would largely have died out in the UK by 2001.

One farmer demonstrating outside the conference centre, Sandy Loud, of Okehampton, Devon, said he wanted to see Mr Hogg's pledge of more money in writing.

Cabinet pair side with sceptics

Michael White on coded but clear warnings by Howard and Portillo

THE Cabinet ministers, Michael Portillo and Michael Howard, yesterday joined a ferocious Euro-sceptic defence of British sovereignty against the looming threat of EU "federalism" and came close to endorsing claims that John Major would win the coming election if he ruled out a single European currency.

The demand, widely supported by rank-and-file activists, produced dramatic evidence of its popularity at fringe meetings attended by up to 800 enthusiastic delegates. John Redwood and Lord Tebbit both told Mr Major he could not lead the party into the election campaign "saying it does not know whether it wishes to abolish the pound or not".

and activists of the Cabinet's most outspoken pro-European, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Yesterday the home and defence secretaries sidestepped direct appeals to John Major to make rejection of the single currency an election winner. But the tone of their speeches was notably close to Lord Tebbit, John Redwood and other outright dissidents on the conference fringe.

After Mr Major's robust defence of his chancellor against pressure for his dismissal on Sunday, Mr Clarke does not intend to use his conference speech tomorrow to raise the Euro-temperature again.

Yesterday the task was left to the vice-president of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan, whose pro-single currency views are even stronger.

At his session on the conference fringe, Sir Leon backed Mr Major's insistence on keeping single currency options open. "He has been pushed and he has been bullied. He has been pilloried for following a policy which is perfectly rational."

It was a myth that Britain was the "paymaster" of Europe. Germany and France



Michael Portillo... 'unconquered since 1066'

were both larger net contributors. Critics complained that Britain might have better things to do with the £3 billion a year it pays "to an organisation whose employment policies are failing, whose system of federal laws threatens us with the same virus and whose idea of free trade is to spend our money subsidising their factories, roads and fishing boats."

That jibe came during a concerted attack by the right from David Heathcoat-Amory, the Treasury minister who resigned from Mr Clarke's team in July to fight

the Eurosceptic corner. At a Bruges Group fringe meeting with Bill Cash's European Foundation, he claimed that the EU relationship was "undermining our capacity for self-government".

Mr Portillo invoked 1,000 years of British liberty — "unconquered since 1066" — to lay similar stress on Britain's position as a "global trading, global investing, global-conscious country".

He told a lunchtime fringe meeting that they had to prevent the creation of a "European fortress economy" while, elsewhere, Mr Howard said the Tories would win the election if they could convince voters they were determined to fight any moves to take Britain into a "United States of Europe".

"Only the Conservative Government is determined to resist that move. If we can only get people to understand it, I don't think there will be any doubt about the outcome of the general election," he told a meeting organised by the Conservative Way Forward group.

Like Mr Portillo, Mr Howard, John Redwood and Lord Tebbit, Mr Heathcoat-Amory emphasised Britain's long history as a globally-minded trading state, quite different from her European neighbours. "It is the Euro-federalists who are the Little Englanders," he said.

Devolution means break-up of UK, says flag-flying Forsyth

Ewen MacAskill

THE Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, yesterday warned that Labour's plan for devolution would lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom.

He said: "There is no such thing as Scottish devolution — there is only British dissolution. This is not a Scottish or Welsh issue — it is a United Kingdom issue."

He and the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, held a huge Union Flag and stopped just short of wrapping themselves in it.

Both received their loudest applause not for their anti-devolution rhetoric but for inserting Euro-sceptic sentiments. Mr Forsyth, to the discomfort of Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner, said: "We don't need lessons in parliamentary democracy from people

whose avowed aim is to subordinate our Parliament to Brussels and Strasbourg."

But the Scottish Secretary's big day was marred by a leak from the department of his old rival, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

Mr Forsyth had planned to make the centrepiece of his speech an announcement of an investment project in which Hyundai, a South Korean electronics company, will create thousands of jobs in Scotland.

Mr Forsyth confirmed that the project would bring up to 4,000 jobs. But he was upstaged when the news was leaked the night before by the Foreign Office. Mr Rifkind and Mr Forsyth clashed in 1993-1994, when Mr Rifkind was a Liberal-leaning Scottish Secretary and Mr Forsyth a Thatcherite Scottish party chairman.

NHS 'is a Tory success story'

Rebecca Smithers, Political Correspondent

THE Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, yesterday claimed the National Health Service for the Tories as an election issue as he taunted Labour for being "in a shambles" over health policy.

Mr Dorrell was the guinea pig in the first questions-and-answers session at the conference — an unusual departure from the Tories' usual set-piece speeches, and one which will be used again this morning to allow delegates to question John Major.

Yesterday's 75-minute session was short of any new policy announcements. But the wide range of questions enabled Mr Dorrell to explore issues ranging from abortion to homeopathy, and from nurses' pay to NHS bureaucracy.

He faced criticism from some NHS staff who claimed they were "demoralised". But Mr Dorrell insisted to loud

applause that the NHS was now "a great British success story" after being under Tory control for two-thirds of its history. "It is our agenda."

It was impossible to even imagine Labour holding such a "constructive discussion".

Over the last 16 months he had faced three different shadow health secretaries in the Commons.

He taunted the incumbent, Chris Smith, over a recent report indicating that Tony Blair is now considering integrating GP fundholders with non-fundholders. It would be a "first" if Mr Blair told his spokesman about it first.

On Labour's pledge that no cancer patient would have to wait for surgery, Mr Dorrell insisted that waiting times were not a problem, and that Labour was simply "using imaginary money to solve an imaginary problem".

Chairman's praise for Major, the 'true Brit'

Michael White, Political Editor

THE Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, yesterday revealed his strategy for turning the coming general election into a presidential contest between an untested Tony Blair and the man he praised as "this true Brit" — John Major.

Describing the prime minister as a self-made man from Brixton whose success rested on a strong will "some might even call it stubbornness" — he told the Tory conference: "John Major has shown again and again that he has what it takes to win through, whatever the odds."

He coupled praise for Mr Major with derision for Mr Blair — "We know he is a principled man, he keeps telling us so" — and lurid warnings of "irreversible change" which a Labour victory would mean for Britain, including a break-up of the Union, at least 10 higher taxes, and jobs lost by surrender to the European social chapter and federalism.

He also mocked Mr Blair's identification with Lady Thatcher by recycling Lloyd Bentsen's jibe at Dan Quayle in the 1988 US presidential campaign. "Mr Blair, I know Margaret Thatcher, Margaret Thatcher is a friend of mine. When Margaret Thatcher was rebuilding this country, you opposed everything she did. Mr Blair, you are no Margaret Thatcher."

But the crucial passage of his text, best received by activists, focused on Mr Major's qualities as a leader — "the most honest, plain-speaking and straight-forward man in British politics". His remarks made plain that Tory strategists will try to contrast Mr Major's experience and solid values — "learned at his father's knee" — with Mr Blair's relatively privileged childhood.

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party Chairman

Progress report

The tide may well have turned for the dear Usterman, some of his colleagues were saying privately yesterday. After all, things couldn't get much worse. The pressure is really on this week for Dr Mawhinney to shed the notorious gaffe-prone image he famously acquired at last year's conference and which has haunted him ever since. It was this time last year in his keynote speech that he ridiculed Labour-controlled Camden Council for funding the Hogroch Asian Women's Centre. But there were red faces when it transpired that the scheme was funded by the Home Office and Save the Children — headed by the Princess Royal. Since then, he has further damaged his credibility by misreading a number of key presentations designed to revive the Tories' standing in the polls. His constant carping about the BBC's coverage of the Conservative Party was becoming tedious until last month he managed to extract an extraordinary apology from director general John Sillar today presenter Anna Ford's handling of an interview with Kenneth Clarke. This week as the conference opened against a background of fresh allegations of sleaze, Dr Mawhinney struggled to deliver a plausible response to the detection of the party's former treasurer Lord MacAlpine to the Referendum Party. But he managed a credible standing ovation for his address to the party faithful yesterday.

Today's performance

Has been entrusted to handle one of the week's biggest set-pieces — John Major's hour-long 'questions and answers' discussion on 'our nation's future' — based on the policy consultation with more than 30,000 party members. He will co-ordinate questions put to the prime minister by delegates. In a session which will be one of the most important of the conference.

- Prospects: His big opportunity for a high-profile demonstration of his close relationship with the premier. Virtually guaranteed to be glitch-free after numerous rehearsals.
Today's business: Foreign Affairs (speaker Malcolm Rifkind), Trade and industry (Ian Lang), Discussion on Our Nation's Future (John Major and Dr Brian Mawhinney), Social Security (Peter Lilley), Environment (John Gummer), Transport (Sir George Young).

Keays returns to haunt the Tories with Black Book

SARA Keays, the House of Commons secretary whose affair with Conservative MP Kenneth Parkinson shook one Conservative conference, has returned to haunt the 1996 conference — though not in person, writes Michael White.

Her first novel, The Black Book, is being published tomorrow by Doubleday, and will be on sale at the conference. Given the trouble the Keays-Parkinson affair caused the 1993 Blackpool conference and the tenacity with which Miss Keays has fought for her rights and those of her daughter, Flora, eyebrows will be raised at the prospect that she is poised to cause more grief.

More of Sara's revenge, some will murmur, recalling the day when Miss Keays gave her side of the affair to the Times on the last morning of the conference and finally ruined the leadership's efforts to save the career of the then-Trade Secretary.

This novel unlikely to have such an impact. Previews suggest it is not the kind of parliamentary bombast voters have come to expect.

It appears to be in the familiar tradition of the parliamentary thriller, one in which our heroine — a well-bred girl called Joanna — stumbles upon a plot and is forced to make public the eponymous black book in which the whips' office records MPs' foibles.

Edwina Currie's A Parliamentary Affair was far more salacious. The left-wingers, Brian Sedgmore and Chris Mullin, published thrillers with some statutory sex scenes. The party apparatchik, Michael Dodds, put notorious amounts of sex and improbable violence into the House of Cards series.

What they all seek is a hit which makes money and sells as a film.

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Treasury indifferent to environment

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09/10/99

Treasury 'is indifferent on environment'

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

ATTEMPTS to put protection at the centre of government policy have met with indifference by the Treasury, according to the Department of Environment.

In an annual progress report, it says the Treasury fails to understand popular concern and is unwilling to change "no go" policy areas such as transport, agriculture and fish stocks.

The department attempted to discuss its £350 million expenditure priorities with the Treasury last year and managed to avoid having expenditure slashed.

However, the report states, "the Treasury took little interest in the review and did not grapple with fundamentals."

The report, written by Paul Britton, director of the central environment protection unit, is part of the department's annual assessment of its own performance.

The Government has claimed that protecting the environment is central to its planning.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has repeatedly said the Govern-

ment believes in sustainable development, which he calls "not cheating on our children" by damaging the environment or misuse of resources.

Mr Gummer also claims that Britain is in the lead in Europe on environmental protection.

Mr Britton says in his report that this idea of sustainable development is not being translated into economic policy. The key factor is the European Union, but in order to have great influence, Britain needed to have "a stronger environment image in Europe".

Elsewhere in the report, the department worries about its public profile and its inability to take on pressure groups such as Greenpeace. It is sponsoring market research to give it a better image.

It is also sensitive to public criticism of the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

Michael Meacher, the Labour environment protection spokesman who obtained the report, said: "John Gummer claims to be green, but his department's own internal review shows that he has not been able to get his message across in Whitehall or in Europe. The Treasury cannot be persuaded to take him seriously."

Euro report highlights ineffectiveness of British policy against growing drug use among the young



A cannabis user rolls a joint: up to one in five teenagers may have tried soft drugs, though Britain has some of the toughest legislation against users

Legislation fails to curb drug abuse

Stephen Bates in Brussels

TOUGH national policies on drug users may be no more effective in cutting crime than those which are more lenient, experts working for the European Union's new monitoring centre said yesterday.

The centre's first annual report on the state of the drugs problem across the 15 member states concludes that the use of drugs, particularly hard drugs, is rare, but that users form between a third and 40 per cent of Europe's prison population.

The surveys place the United Kingdom high on the list of states where drug abuse is common, despite higher penalties than in most other member states.

"The British authorities' record in capturing illegal drugs is less impressive than countries with more liberal attitudes to drug use."

Richard Hartnoll of the Lisbon-based monitoring centre told a press conference in Brussels: "There is little relationship between the prevalence of the problem and the policies adopted to combat it. There is no obvious, direct correlation between what countries do and

what the figures for drug abuse show."

Britain has some of the toughest legislation against drug users with up to five years' imprisonment for smoking cannabis, seven years for the use of harder drugs and life imprisonment for trafficking. Other EU countries specify lower penalties.

In the Netherlands, the maximum sentence for smoking cannabis is a month, while a trafficker in hard drugs might receive less than four years. Spanish penalties are similarly light.

In 1994, Britain seized 63,021kg of cannabis, but the Dutch police captured 238,268 kg and the Spanish 219,176 kg. The Spanish also captured more heroin and cocaine than the British.

Georges Estievenart, director of the monitoring centre, said: "If you look at the main figures for the Netherlands, say, or France, you will

not see such large differences that you can say there is a great problem with the overall approach. You don't have one case where results are brilliant and another where they are lamentable."

The report estimates that up to 16 per cent of the adult population has experimented with illegal drugs, with up to 20 per cent of young adults admitting to taking them.

As many as one in five 15-16-year-olds are thought to have tried cannabis, 16 per cent solvents and 5 per cent amphetamines.

A much smaller proportion of people have tried hard drugs. Fewer than 2 per cent are thought to have tried cocaine and 1 per cent, heroin. But it is believed that there are between 500,000 and one million heroin addicts in Europe. This is proportionately about half the level in the US.

In almost all cases, Britain has among the highest proportions to have tried drugs: 2 per cent of adults have tried cocaine, up to 16 per cent, cannabis. The British, along with the Belgian, Dutch and Spanish, are one of Europe's highest LSD and ecstasy users.

Drug use levelled off in the early 1990s but is now thought to be on the increase.

News in brief

Deadline for NHS workers' pay deal

UNIONS and NHS trusts were set a five-week deadline yesterday to hammer out 225 wage deals and break the logjam in the new local pay arrangements for nurses and other health workers.

Ken Jarrold, human resources director of the NHS executive, told both sides he wanted settlements in half the 528 trusts by November 12. At present, there are only 39 deals.

If the target was not met, Mr Jarrold warned, negotiations scheduled to start on November 12 on the annual upgrading of national minimum pay rates would not be regarded as "meaningful".

Union leaders dismissed the deadline as unrealistic. They expressed surprise at the move and thought Mr Jarrold had painted himself into a corner.

Roger Kline, head of labour relations for the Health Visitors' Association, said: "If he doesn't get all the settlements, or even get near, what does it say? It says local pay is a farce."

Trusts have proved to be very slow at reaching agreement on local wage deals, which were due for payment from April 1, under the nurses' pay award announced in February which provided for a 2 per cent national increase to be topped up locally. Local deals apply to other NHS workers, except doctors. — David Brindle

Channel 5 defends retuning

CHANNEL 5 responded angrily yesterday to claims by ITV that it had retuned video recorders in only 2 per cent of British homes. The station, which is expected to launch next March, said it had already retuned nearly a million videos to avoid interference from the channel's signals.

Channel 5 said the figures, which have been sent to the Independent Television Commission, represented about 10 per cent of the 9.6 million homes they have earmarked for visits. The commission has said 90 per cent of videos must have been returned before the station is allowed on the air.

A survey conducted by Continental Research and RSL for ITV claimed that after the first two months of the retuning programme 52 per cent of homes had received initial literature from Channel 5 — and only 2 per cent had received a visit. — Andrew Culf

Social workers told of risk

SOCIAL workers were warned twice that six-year-old Rikki Neave was in danger in the months leading up to his murder, a jury at Northampton crown court was told yesterday.

Rikki's mother, Ruth Neave — who denies killing him in November 1994 — told social workers at a meeting in March 1994 it would be "on their heads" if he was not taken away from home. A jury heard that a foster carer who visited the Neave house in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, in late September 1994, said he warned the family's social worker that Rikki was at risk and living in a "volatile" household.

The court was told that Neave had once written the word "idiot" in green felt pen and capital letters on Rikki's forehead. Witnesses also said she had once cleaned his mouth out with washing up liquid and had claimed to be "high priestess of the occult".

Brothers found hanging

THE bodies of two men believed to be brothers were found hanging from a tree in what is thought to have been a suicide pact. The middle-aged men were found on Monday at a heathy spot near Clifton Bridge, North Yorkshire. Relatives of the men, who did not come from North Yorkshire, were to identify the bodies yesterday. Police said the deaths were not suspicious.

Charity workers' awards

WINNER of the 1996 Guardian Jerwood Award for charity workers is Margaret Carey, founder of the Inside Out Trust. Set up less than three years ago, the charity is now working with 20 prisons where inmates are making and sorting goods for developing countries and disabled people.

Ms Carey, from West Sussex, receives a prize of £4,000. Highly commended and each receiving £2,000 are Barry Schofield, general secretary of the British Paralympic Association, and Jenni Thomas, founder of the Child Bereavement Trust.

There were more than 160 entries for the award, which is co-sponsored by the Guardian and the Jerwood Foundation, a charitable trust. — David Brindle

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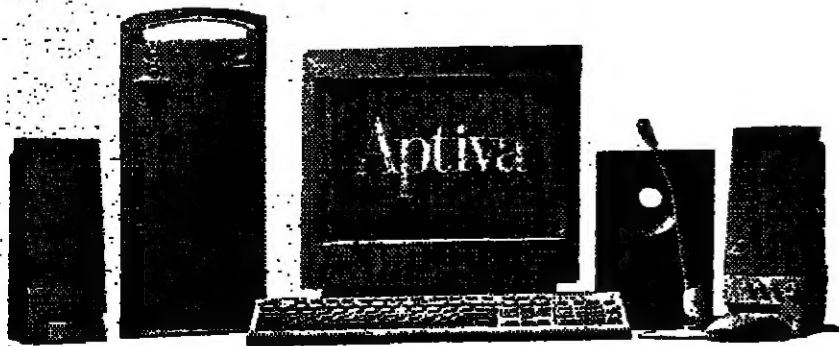
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Unions flex muscles at millionaire

US election 96
Gary Young

REPUBLICAN Congressman Dick Chrysler's life story reads like the ultimate American dream — a tale of taut boot straps and rugged individualism that took him from a janitor to a multi-millionaire in little over a decade.

He thinks others could do the same and for the past two years he has been trying to cut Medicaid, slash welfare and cut taxes, to make sure they have no excuse not to. Playing the underdog does not come easily to a man like

Mr Chrysler, yet in his battle for re-election he says he feels like David fighting Goliath. "The labour bosses are using their members' dues to buy this seat," he says. "This has nothing to do with the people of Lansing but power and control of the unions in Washington DC."

Mr Chrysler is one of more than 20 Republicans, mostly freshmen, whose voting records have been attacked by America's largest trade union federation, the AFL-CIO, in a \$35 million (£23 million) advertising campaign called Labour 96.

"We are running ads in districts where there is a large union presence and there are incumbent congressmen who have voted against working families," says Amanda Fuchs, an AFL-CIO spokeswoman. The unions are also

sending co-ordinators to 86 congressional districts to organise volunteers and distribute leaflets.

Earlier this week the House

'The labour bosses are using their members' dues to buy this seat'

speaker, Newt Gingrich, claimed that the campaign could prove decisive in the Democrats' bid to recapture Congress. The Republicans have stepped in with an advertising campaign specifically attacking the unions — "The big labour bosses. Big money. Big lies. Big liberals."

The business community has responded with advertisements attacking the unions and defending Republican Congressman. "This has been the first pro-Republican Congress in about 40 years," says Bruce Josten, the vice-president of the US Chamber of Commerce, which is spearheading a 30-strong coalition of national business lobbies.

The unions are delighted. The very idea that they could have this much influence was unthinkable even a year ago. Only 15 per cent of the country's workforce is unionised and for the past 40 years a mixture of nepotism and infighting has kept them from wielding any serious independent influence.

so that our members can hold any politicians accountable for what they do."

The new era is largely attributed to the AFL-CIO president, John Sweeney, who took over the organisation after an insurgent campaign against Lane Kirkland, who had held the post for 16 years. Mr Sweeney believes that the excesses of the last Republican Congress and the upcoming elections give the unions the ideal opportunity to flex their muscles in a way that the National Rifle Association and anti-abortionist lobbies did during the 1994 elections.

at a rally outside the New York Stock Exchange. On the front line of this proxy war between labour and capital stands Mr Chrysler.

'The labour movement can hold politicians accountable'

Mr Sweeney, aged 62, regularly speaks in terms of class conflict that would make John Monks, the TUC's general secretary, blush. "American workers will rise up and take back from you what you have taken from us," he said

national mood. Mr Chrysler won it in 1994 when the country swung heavily Republican. Mr Clinton took it in the 1992 presidential election, as did George Bush in 1988.

"It is a strange district. It should be Republican — but moderate Republican," says William Ballenger, editor of the newsletter Inside Michigan Politics. "It takes a person with a finely tuned political antennae to take a seat like this. Chrysler is not that sort of person."

erate political tide of the past 18 months. Mr Chrysler has remained a steadfast conservative.

However, Mr Chrysler's political consultant, Tom Shields, says that if the Democrats win this time it will be thanks to the unions. "We don't want to fight the AFL-CIO because they are not on the ballot. If she wins, Debbie Stabenow will be in the back pocket of the AFL-CIO," he says.

That is unlikely. Ms Stabenow is a supporter of the North American Free Trade Association (Nafta) and Mr Clinton's recent welfare reform — two issues which the unions have bitterly opposed. When she stood in the Democratic primaries for state governor in 1994 she did not even receive the local AFL-CIO's endorsement.

US jail murder 'provoked by talk-show'

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

POLICE in Florida believe jail inmates were provoked by a radio talk-show to kill a fellow prisoner, a convicted child murderer.

Detectives claim Donald McDougall was bludgeoned to death following an on-air offer of a \$1,000 (\$350) reward to anyone who killed him.

The case centres on the controversial Orlando disc jockey "Russ, Bo and Dirty Jim", whose loyal following apparently extends to the Avon Park Correctional Institution where McDougall was being held.

Prison officials say inmates reported hearing a caller to the show place a bounty on the head of McDougall, who became one of Florida's most reviled criminals after he was found guilty of killing a girl aged five in 1962.

Ursula Assand died after enduring a torturous 53-hour ordeal in which she was starved, deprived of sleep, made to stand naked in a suitcase and forced to eat soap. McDougall was convicted of murder, together with the child's mother.

Listeners to the Russ, Bo and Dirty Jim show on September 25 were invited to mark the anniversary of Ursula's death, and to celebrate a successful local campaign to keep violent criminals in jail, which had focused on McDougall's case.

One caller, according to prison officials, offered a reward if McDougall should meet the same fate as the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who was murdered in jail.

Prison officials say that as soon as they were alerted to the bounty, they placed McDougall under protective custody. According to the authorities, he was killed last Tuesday — within hours of his protection being dropped at his own request.

Lawyers for the inmate charged with the killing, Arba Barr, say they do not know if the broadcast influenced their client, who is serving a 114-year sentence for a string of violent assaults and robberies.

The radio station, WTSP-FM, refuses to confirm if it aired the reward offer, and it has not released a tape of the broadcast.

Russ Rollins — the Russ of the programme's title — insists his listeners do not take the show that seriously, regarding the presenters as "stupid, bucketmouth red-necks just goofing around".

He told the New York Times his show was more concerned with "heats and heats" than with grave matters of criminal justice.

But the episode comes amid rising concern over the consequences of unrestricted freedom of speech — guaranteed under the United States constitution's First Amendment.

The trial began this week of Jonathan Schmitz, who is accused of killing a male neighbour who revealed a secret crush on him on a television talk show.

Lawyers say Mr Schmitz was so humiliated by his appearance on the Jenny Jones Show that he was driven to murder.

The dead man's family are suing the show's producers for \$35 million, claiming they caused his death.



Show of hands... Bill Clinton greets supporters at Hadlock Field in Portland, Maine, the president's last stop on a three-state campaign tour. PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH FREMSON

News in brief

News reporter jailed in US

David Kidwell, a reporter for the Miami Herald newspaper who refused to testify about an interview with a murder suspect, has been sentenced by a Florida judge to 70 days in jail for contempt of court.

Mr Kidwell refused to answer questions about an interview with suspect John Zile and has until Sunday to do so. — AP.

Cult verdict date

A court in Lyon, France, said yesterday it would deliver verdicts on November 23 in the trial of 28 members of the Church of Scientology on charges ranging from fraud to manslaughter. — Reuters.

Mother imprisoned

A Frankfurt court yesterday jailed a woman aged 40 for taking money to let her children be used for sex. Four acquaintances were jailed for sexual abuse. — Reuters.

Auschwitz plan

Poland's government yesterday approved a plan to manage the site of the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz aimed at ensuring "reverence" for it, following a row over a plan to open a shopping centre opposite it. — Reuters.

Thirsty elephants

A herd of thirsty elephants destroyed several illegal breweries south-west of Calcutta, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

American South unites behind last confederate wife

Jonathan Freedland in Washington on the unexpected find of a surviving link to the civil war

ing ovation that lasted for five minutes.

Ms Martin's status is the result of an unusual marriage: in 1927, at the age of 21, she became the third wife of William Martin, a veteran of the Fourth Alabama Infantry, Company K.

He was aged 81. She had seen him playing dominoes near her parents' house.

"We talked a little over the fence," she told the New York Times.

The biggest lure, however, was the war pension the former confederate soldier received.

"The old man drew about \$30 a month — and, you know, that was big money back then," she said.

He died five years later but not before he had sired a son. Now aged 68, the boy is admired by aficionados as a so-called "Real Son" — one of a handful of surviving offspring of the confederacy.

As for Ms Martin, she married again within months — to her former husband's teenage grandson, Charles.

Conforming to one southern stereotype, she was simultaneously his wife and step-grandmother.

The attention given to Ms Martin has dismayed black and civil rights groups. They say the confederacy is being glorified, even though its struggle was largely a defence of the right to keep blacks as slaves.

Civil war buffs — and southerners who continue to venerate the "Lost Cause" against the North — campaigned hard for Ms Martin, who was struggling in near-poverty.

The Alabama state senate said it was "a true joy" to be able to declare her the last widow of a confederate soldier.

And at a recent centennial meeting of the Sons of Confederate Veterans she was greeted with a stand-

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Jonathan Steele in Kabul

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Finding threatens to stall legislative programme

Italian court ends 'rule by photocopy'

John Hooper in Rome

IT IS one of Italians' favourite commonplaces that, despite appearances, there is "order beneath the chaos". However, a ruling from its constitutional court may now ensure there is only chaos beneath the chaos.

Unless action is taken in the next few weeks, restrictions on the production of hazardous chemicals will end, soldiers fighting the mafia will have to be withdrawn from Sicily and work will stop on a string of multi-million pound construction projects in Rome.

In the meantime, the country's legislative programme will be in imminent danger of paralysis. The deputy prime minister, Walter Veltroni, said yesterday: "There is a very real risk of getting into a standstill situation."

The crisis arises from what Italians jokingly refer to as "rule by photocopy". For years, governments side-stepped the ponderous procedures for getting a bill through the Italian parliament by issuing decrees.

The senate and chamber of deputies, the upper and lower houses respectively, have equal powers, so bills often bounce back and forth between them almost indef-

initely. Fabio Mussi, the leader of the main government party in the chamber, yesterday described it as "doing ping-pong".

The constitution provides for decrees but says they should be issued only in response to emergencies. They can remain in force for no longer than 60 days.

However, in practice, governments have used decrees to legislate for many non-urgent contingencies. When one runs out, an identical decree is often issued in its place.

Among more than 50 decrees on the statute books are measures for the privatisation of the tobacco monopoly, the streamlining of government audits, and the regulation of the ports. The longest standing has been reissued 18 times.

This practice has now run into a legal brick wall: the court ruled it unconstitutional two weeks ago.

The judges kept the ruling secret until the authorities were told. It was late on Monday that the news leaked out.

Mr Mussi said that the court had set the government *un bel problema*, which roughly translates as "a right poser".

In just over two weeks, the first decree is due to run out: the government's painstaking

overhaul of the state broadcasting corporation, the RAI, will cease to have legal status or a claim on public funds.

Five days later, a key part of the rescue plan for the Alitalia airline will go the same way.

Other decrees allocate cash to prepare Rome for the Holy Year in 2000, and permit the army to guard key sites on Sicily and free police for the war on organised crime.

The most notorious example of a "photocopied decree", however, gives force to European Union legislation on the disposal of toxic waste. The measure was prompted by the 1976 Seveso disaster, north of Milan.

Ecologists have been demanding an act of parliament for years and warned that, if the decrees procedure failed, Italy would be the only country in the EU not to have safeguards inspired by a disaster on its own territory.

The constitutional court reached its decision after considering a decree that allowed immigrants who had committed an offence to be deported without appeal.

The previous government issued the measure to satisfy calls for action on immigration from the breakaway Northern League, whose votes were essential to the administration's survival.

Foreign 'fiasco' hits Turkish PM

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

TURKEY'S first Islamist-led coalition government is facing the threat of a no-confidence vote after a foreign policy fiasco over attempts by the prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, to strengthen ties with Muslim states in Africa.

Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the main opposition Motherland Party, described the trip — which saw a rhetorically bruised Mr Erbakan holding talks in the outcast state of Nigeria yesterday — as "a diplomatic fiasco".

Mr Erbakan's foreign policy scandal in Turkey's history.

He demanded the prime minister's resignation. Failing that, the Motherland Party will force a debate on foreign policy which, it said, could lead to a vote of no confidence next week.

In Nigeria, Mr Erbakan held talks described as cordial with the military leader, General Sani Abacha, whose country remains under limited Western sanctions for its hanging last year of nine minority rights activists, and its failure to undertake a swift return to civilian rule.

A delegation of about 200 businessmen, including chief executives of some of Turkey's largest companies, are accompanying the prime minister, who is discussing oil and gas co-operation with Nigeria.

Turkey's foreign ministry is reported to have opposed the Nigerian and Libyan trips, arguing that "haunting an Islamic identity" was not necessarily grounds for good relations with Muslim countries. Despite such

strong objections from his domestic secular establishment and from the United States, Mr Erbakan went ahead.

In Libya, which is also under sanctions, he was treated to a lecture from Col Gaddafi against Turkish suppression of Kurdish separatists.

"Kurdistan should be established," Turkish newspapers quoted Col Gaddafi as saying at a news conference while Mr Erbakan sat in an awkward silence. "I am talking about the Kurdish nation. This nation should have its place under the Middle Eastern sun."

The Libyan leader also criticised Turkey's close ties to the West: "Turkey has lost its will. Turkey's future lies not in Nato, US bases and in repressing the Kurds but in its nobility and its past."

The prime minister replied politely that Turkey had a terrorism problem not a Kurdish problem. His delegation also agreed plans to increase trade with Libya.

The foreign ministry subsequently announced it was temporarily withdrawing its ambassador to Libya, but Mr Erbakan's meek response unleashed a whirlwind of criticism from Turkey's overtly nationalist politicians. "He should have got up, spat in his face and left," said Yasar Okuyan, a member of the Motherland Party.

The leftwing Republican People's Party (CHP) and Democratic Left Party (DSP) tabled censure motions yesterday. The DSP said foreign policy was in such a mess that the country would fall unless the prime minister fell first. The CHP motion said "the Republic of Turkey has never been placed in such a humiliating situation".

News in brief

Checkpoints removed

Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi responded to the military's removal of checkpoints around her Rangoon home yesterday by promising to resume weekly public meetings.

The checkpoints were set up on September 26 to prevent Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy from holding a congress. The ruling military council said it had released the last 63 NLD detainees being held. — Reuters.

Jakarta sued

Indonesia's pro-democracy leader Megawati Sukarnoputri began a law suit against the national election committee in Jakarta yesterday for rejecting her candidates for the 1997 elections. The committee last month refused to accept her candidates after it received a list from the government-backed faction of her party. — Reuters.

Dissident held

Police in Beijing detained the veteran Chinese pro-democracy activist Liu Xiaobo yesterday at his home, family members said. — Reuters.

Boat capsizes

Fifty people drowned when their boat overturned on the Rokel river near Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, police said yesterday. — Reuters.

Refugee staff cut

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, has announced plans to reduce the agency's Geneva staff by one-third because of funding problems. — AP.

Fantasy island

Greek police yesterday arrested 75 illegal Kurdish immigrants on Crete after a tanker captain had convinced them that they had arrived in Italy. — AP.



Rescuers surround a Russian cargo plane which crashed into a village while trying to land at Turin airport, north-west Italy, yesterday. Two crew and two villagers died, but more than 20 people on board survived. PHOTOGRAPH, CLAUDIO PASTI

Yeltsin's aides queue up to spill the beans

Allegations are flying between those hoping to succeed the Russian president, reports David Hearst in Moscow

A CLAN war has broken out among Boris Yeltsin's top political aides with each trying to incriminate the others in an attempt to improve their chances of becoming the next Russian president.

Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, declared open season on his political rivals yesterday. In an interview with a mass-circulation Russian newspaper, he criticised the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin; the presidential chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais; the leader of the Communist Party, Gennady Zyuganov; and the security chief, General Alexander Lebed.

Mr Luzhkov said he was not declaring his presidential ambitions, and that he would attack by Mr Yeltsin "to the end". But the mayor's remarks left the impression that he considered himself the only figure worthy of election in a post-Yeltsin period.

He implied that Gen Lebed might be trying to kill him, and that Mr Chubais was using Mr Yeltsin's heart disease as an excuse to assume far greater powers than his post allowed.

He accused Mr Chernomyrdin, the former minister of the state gas complex Gazprom, of harbouring an "inexplicable love for the oil lobby". Mr Chernomyrdin has family interests in Lukoil, one of the big oil companies.

Meanwhile, another rival for power, Alexander Korzhakov, of harbouring an "inexplicable love for the oil lobby". Mr Chernomyrdin has family interests in Lukoil, one of the big oil companies.

Mr Korzhakov's claims were intended to hurt Mr Chubais, who was responsible for his dismissal in July along with Mikhail Barsukov, the former head of the Federal Security Service, and Oleg Soskovets, the former deputy prime minister.

As the president's security chief, Mr Korzhakov is believed to have bugged the offices and private homes of most of the government. He hinted in a previous interview that he was prepared to reveal their secret



General Lebed: Accusations of murderous intent

business dealings and bank accounts abroad.

Mr Korzhakov has been accused of masterminding "a state racket" through a shadowy body called the National Sports Fund, which made millions of dollars from its right to import duty-free alcohol and cigarettes. Shamill Tarpiyev, Mr Yeltsin's former tennis coach, was sacked as sports minister on Monday, after allegations of his and Mr Korzhakov's links with the fund.

The affair blew up in May when Boris Fyodorov, a former protégé of Mr Tarpiyev, was arrested on drug charges. He claimed that he had been set up so that he could be dismissed. A month later he was shot and stabbed but survived to tell his story.

On Sunday he alleged on television that several days before he was attacked a member of Mr Korzhakov's Kremlin guard, Colonel Valery Streletsky, had accused him of stealing \$300 million (£200 million) from the fund and demanded \$40 million to keep quiet.

A Moscow newspaper had previously published a tran-

script of a conversation secretly taped — allegedly by Mr Fyodorov — in the offices of Mr Berezovsky, the chairman of the biggest car dealership.

In the conversation, Mr Fyodorov accused Mr Tarpiyev, Mr Korzhakov and Mr Barsukov of conducting the extortion racket.

This week, in another interview, Mr Korzhakov admitted the existence of the tape and said: "[Berezovsky] was very frightened — all white. His hands were shaking. He handed over the tape... and even the transcript... and began to blame everything on Fyodorov."

Grigory Yavlinski, the liberal economist who failed to make a political breakthrough in the presidential elections in July, said yesterday: "One thief is stealing the stick with which to beat another thief. This is a clan war about access to the budget and to the biggest monopolies in the country."

"Those in power today have become dangerous for the country, because they are capable of turning it into a criminalised, monopolised, oligarchic state."

Pope given all clear

John Hooper in Rome

THE Pope could be back on his feet today and in the Vatican early next week, according to the optimistic version of his state of health given out yesterday after a successful operation to remove his appendix.

The surgeon who carried out the operation, Francesco Crucitti, told journalists that no trace of cancer or any other serious illness had been detected either during surgery or in tests carried out while it was in progress.

But Professor Crucitti dodged the question of whether the 76-year-old pontiff might be suffering from Parkinson's Disease. In so doing, he revealed that a team of specialists was monitoring the violent trembling of the Pope's left arm that first provoked speculation.

"I can only refer you to those doctors, since I myself have never followed this problem," Prof Crucitti said.

Last night, the anaesthetist who took part in the operation, Corrado Manni, appeared to be preparing public opinion by stressing that a degenerative neurological disorder did not imply any loss of mental powers.

"One thing is Parkinson's Disease, another Alzheimer's," Dr Manni said.

There have been several indications recently that the spiritual leader of the world's several hundred million Roman Catholics may have Parkinson's.

On a tour of Hungary, the pontiff's spokesman was quoted as indirectly confirming the reports.

Prof Crucitti dismissed any idea of a recurrence of the tumour which he removed from the Pope's colon four years ago. "I categorically rule it out," he said.

He said the Pope could get out of bed today, and might be able to leave hospital next Tuesday.

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Exploding the peace

Is there an alternative to the slide back to war?

EVERY bombing in Northern Ireland is a political act and the Lisburn barracks car bombs on Monday night were more than usually calculated acts of violence. The timing, on the eve of the Conservative Party conference, was too precise to be misunderstood. The placement, especially given the security system around Lisburn, indicates a professional republican operation not a stunt by a breakaway group. The Continuity Army Council which claimed responsibility yesterday is almost certainly a convenient fiction to distance Sinn Féin from the current sequence of explosions.

Interpreting such events can easily become a mug's game. But the overwhelming inference this time has to be that this is a major operation mounted from within the Provisional IRA. It is partly designed as a provocation to loyalist paramilitaries to abandon their increasingly precarious ceasefire. The Lisburn explosions took place literally within earshot of a meeting at the Maze between loyalist prisoners and their political allies. All voices have rightly urged the loyalists not to respond, but there can be little doubt that this is becoming an increasingly vain exercise.

This was by far the most important act of violence to have taken place in Northern Ireland since at least 1994. It marks, on a large scale, the resumption of lethal assaults on the Army. It means that all Army and police activity in Northern Ireland — and possibly elsewhere — must now proceed on the basis that the IRA will kill soldiers and police officers if they can. It is a return to the operational methods of the 1980s. It is a profoundly retrogressive step, and no one should delude themselves that any aspect of the Northern Ireland situation will now be anything except more difficult than it was before.

Some republicans may still believe

that such bombings will have the perverse effect of forcing the British government to bring Sinn Féin into the Northern Ireland talks process. If so, they are doomed to disappointment. Even in the unlikely event that the IRA now promptly announces a fresh ceasefire — an outcome for which there is barely an ounce of evidence — it is simply not politically possible for Sinn Féin to be admitted to the talks at the moment. There is no basis of trust upon which that can happen. It would not be realistic to expect Unionist parties to remain in the talks in that event. In any case, the Conservatives could not persuade their MPs to support such a move.

This is therefore a politically pointless act. The republican movement gains nothing by it, and loses yet another slice of its already very thin credibility. This does not mean that Sinn Féin will necessarily be displeased by this outcome, since its priority now seems increasingly to be focused on defeating the SDLP to become the primary political force in Catholic Northern Ireland. Since events like Lisburn mock the SDLP's strategy of participating in the political talks, they will doubtless be repeated.

It is necessary to ask, therefore, whether there is any alternative to present to this gradual descent back into armed conflict in Northern Ireland. It is genuinely hard to see one that any British government of whatever party could honourably follow. It would, of course, be desirable to strike a compromise deal in Northern Ireland within which, with public consent, a pluralist Ulster could prosper in a three-stranded system of reform. But there wasn't much evidence that this was ever seriously on the republican agenda. And what has happened in Lisburn only confirms the grim conclusion that, for the IRA, the struggle is preferable to any possible outcome.

Law and yet more disorder

Mr Howard must learn: prevention is better than prison

FORGET yesterday's promises. Let us look at earlier pledges going back to Michael Howard's first as home secretary four Conservative conferences ago. That was the occasion when huge carcasses of red meat were fed to the carnivores: 27 separate initiatives to tighten the law 'n' order screw. More, much more, followed including last year's package of minimum sentences, due to be implemented in the current parliamentary session. So what has happened? Unsurprisingly, the biggest post-war rise in the prison population. Already almost 50 per cent higher than three years ago, it is still rising at 1,000-a-month. But what has happened to crime? Michael Howard had a lapse of memory yesterday. He failed to remind delegates of two important reports released by his department only two weeks ago. Far from turning the tide, Michael Howard looks set to be swamped: violent crime is up by 10 per cent and the latest national crime survey suggests that the true number of offences is four times as large as the five million recorded in the official statistics.

Imagine what Michael Howard would be doing with such statistics if he was in opposition — the delegates would have been scared even to venture out on to Bournemouth's streets. So what's gone wrong? The home secretary's biggest failure has been his insistence that law 'n' order can be achieved by law. It cannot. That's why Tony Blair's tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime

still carries such resonance. Prevention cannot be ignored. Punishment should not be given a higher priority than detection, as a succession of police, senior judges and researchers have tried to explain. Of course serious offenders should be sent to prison, but a criminal justice system which only chucks up one conviction for every 50 recorded offences cannot solve crime by itself. Other programmes are needed to meet the challenge of the 49 out of 50 offences where there are no convictions. Yet there was no new money yesterday for the Safer Cities programme, no new funds for local crime prevention schemes, no support for crime diversion projects.

Instead, it was more of the same old recipe. So he proceeds with his automatic minimum seven-year sentences for repeat drug pushers, automatic life sentences for second serious sexual or violent offenders, and new minimum sentences for repeat burglars all of which have been rejected by not just the senior judiciary but the senior Tory establishment as well. The populist does not listen. He's got a parallel package of non penal punishments including naming-and-shaming juveniles, disqualifying non-motoring offenders from driving, new stalking laws and shutting down clubs where drugs are available. What was missing yesterday was any recognition from the speaker of his lack of credibility. The Tories are no longer the law 'n' order party: the polls on crime show Labour ahead.

For whom the Nobel tolls

The economics prize contains explosive material

THE NOBEL PRIZE for economics often generates wry amusement among mainstream scientists. Not simply because it has become something of a monopoly for economists in the United States (they have won 60 per cent of all of them) but because the discoveries don't always seem to affect the real world in the way that other Nobel prizes in areas like physics and medicine do. Last year it was won by the controversial "rational expectations" theory under which consumers are supposed to anticipate government decisions and act accordingly often negating them: the year before it went to three economists applying "games theory" to corporate situations and in 1993 to two economic historians one of whom demonstrated that slavery, however, repugnant, was an economically efficient system. Well, fine... but so what?

This year it is almost embarrassingly topical. James Mirrlees, the distin-

guished Cambridge professor, (who shares the \$1.12 million prize with the Canadian, William Vickrey) won it mainly for his work on the way tax levels can affect incentives to work and what the optimum tax level is. Professor Mirrlees, who spent 27 years in Oxford before returning to Cambridge, said something yesterday which dare not speak its name at a Labour Party conference these days let alone a Conservative one. He believes that tax rates in Britain "could reasonably be higher, particularly for middle income earners". He has in mind top marginal tax rates of between 40 and 50 per cent raising revenue for health services, education and welfare payments. Such heresy is enough to make an iron shadow chancellor well-Browned off. What Professor Mirrlees says may be economically sound but it is deemed politically incorrect and that's that. Old Truths don't New Labour make.



Letters to the Editor

And the sleaze goes on

FOLLOWING the latest disclosures in the Neil Hamilton affair, the public understandably may well have doubts as to the effectiveness of any "self-regulatory" procedures established by this Government (Hamilton must step down now, say voters, October 8).

Why not insist in future disputes that the civil action proceeds as planned; all costs to be borne by the Treasury and damages awarded in the usual way but made payable to the Treasury rather than the successful party?

Such a procedure (only to be used where a genuine "public interest" issue is involved and when one party withdraws) would be an effective use of public money, and would ensure that all relevant documents be disclosed and witnesses be cross-examined.

Above all the outcome would be widely accepted by taxpayers who will, in any event, underwrite the cost of the proposed enquiry to be conducted by Sir Gordon Downey.

John Elmsire,
Haytraps Cottage,
Tilgustend,
Dymock,
Glos GL18 2DY.

PLEASE allow me to congratulate you on a magnificent week of achievement. While it should be expected that a non-Tory such as myself should enjoy their discomfiture, the past week's events have a far greater significance. The arrogance that lies behind those who abuse the privilege of their position has been revealed. Perhaps more significantly, the actions, or rather their absence, in the case of the Prime Minister, are more revealing than the findings of any tribunal.

James Grundy,
58 Hayden Lane,
Hucknall,
Nottinghamshire NG15 8BS.

WHY does the Guardian not turn the tables on Hamilton and bring a reciprocal action against him for libel? Surely then you would get to keep all the Government papers on the matter and also sort out Hamilton and his like.

James Byrne,
3 Seaview,
Drimmin, Morvery,
Argyll PA34 5XY.

IN the current edition of Who's Who, Mr Hamilton lists "silence"

as one of his pursuits. Any listener to the radio or viewer of television might wish that he had followed his pursuit with greater assiduity.

R A Seymour,
10 Threshers,
Creddon, Devon.

BERNARD Tapie was stripped of his parliamentary immunity from prosecution by his peers in the French parliament. Can the same not be done to Mr Neil Hamilton and if not, why not? Peter Williams,
148 High Street,
Cottingham,
Cambs CB4 4RX.

THE Neil Hamilton/Ian Greer affair reminds me of Trollope, John Major's favourite novelist, and the advice given in his *The Way We Live Now* to the great swindler Melmotte: "First get into Parliament, and then spend a little money on the Conservative side and there was no knowing what honours might not be achieved by a liberal hand." Of course, that was pure fiction.

Andrew Anderson,
Granton Lodge,
179 Granton Road,
Edinburgh EH5 3RQ.

A miscellany

I AM happy to confirm that Ofsted's investigation into the impact of spending decisions in schools on the provision of books and equipment, as announced in our last annual report, is progressing well. The report which we have decided not to publish, because it did not offer any significant new information, was on the role of school libraries and was quite unconnected with our inquiry into resources. Somehow you have conflated two different pieces of work (literacy report suppressed, October 5) and come up with conspiracy theory.

Jonathan Lawson,
Head of Communications,
Ofsted, Alexandra House,
33 Kingsway,
London WC2B 6SE.

THE photograph you published of four teachers murdered in the South East of Turkey (October 3) implies that they were killed by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party). The PKK have emphatically denied responsibility and have accused the Turkish state of murdering the teachers and blaming the PKK, in an attempt to deflect attention from Amnesty International's damning report on Turkey launched the same day.

It is to be welcomed that Dr Kim Howells (Letters, October 5) wishes to debate the cultural policy of the British film industry. Yet with whom else can he carry on this debate but with those "chattering classes", a self-hating term for all those people who think, question, argue or engage with life? Otherwise I can only assume that Dr Howells is fantasising about becoming a President of a Britain that has been invaded. Independence Day-style, "chattering classes", and that he alone is capable of repelling them. Just as he has repelled the encroachments of his own thinking past as a Hornsey Art School revolutionary, a member of the Communist Party, a NUM activist — a clearing of the decks we are seeing all too often from the new authoritarians in the Labour Party.

Marc Karlin,
Lusia Films,
20 Goodge Place,
London W1.

The ministry in a muddle

YOUR story that British troops were exposed to Gulf war pesticides in the Gulf war than hitherto reported may indicate multiple blunders by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) admits Gulf blunder, October 5). Accounts of application methods range from aerial spraying of tents through to ground spraying by medical staff without protective equipment.

Even in the 1980s there were clear recommendations not to breathe in the spray mist of pesticides like fenitrothion which were used in the Gulf. Troops may have been well advised to put on their "germ warfare" masks and clothes to protect themselves when spraying OP pesticides on or when being sprayed by Allied forces.

Even by MoD standards the story of the Phoenix project (Opening on, October 1) is highly embarrassing. Landing problems? Perhaps the contractors (GEC-Marconi) should seek help from the model-maker featured in last month's edition of *Aeroplane*. This ex-pilot flies his own radio-controlled Swift fighter, powered by a tiny British-made turbojet, and concludes his display with a perfect landing.

Nigel Linford,
12 Windermere Court,
East Drive,
Brighton BN2 2BU.

THE armed forces at work in the Gulf were apparently taking anti-nerve-gas drugs like pyridostigmine on instruction from the MoD. It should have automatically been asked how this drug would react with the pesticides. We now know that the interaction was damaging. If the MoD did not know what the reaction was in 1991, personnel should not have been exposed to a potential risk without adequate information and protective equipment.

(Dr) Andrew Watterson,
Director, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health,
De Montfort University,
The Gateway,
Leicester LE1 9BH.

EVEN by MoD standards the story of the Phoenix project (Opening on, October 1) is highly embarrassing. Landing problems? Perhaps the contractors (GEC-Marconi) should seek help from the model-maker featured in last month's edition of *Aeroplane*. This ex-pilot flies his own radio-controlled Swift fighter, powered by a tiny British-made turbojet, and concludes his display with a perfect landing.

Nigel Linford,
12 Windermere Court,
East Drive,
Brighton BN2 2BU.

Camping rights for gypsies: the government pitches in

ON two consecutive days, following the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Mrs June Buckley, you published articles on gypsies (No resting place, October 1, and End of the road, October 2) which contain factual inaccuracies and suppositions.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 does not contain a criminal offence of camping on land without planning permission. It contains provisions which allow local authorities to direct persons camped on land without the consent of the occupier to leave the land. If they do so as soon as practicable, no offence is committed. The powers cannot be used against gypsies camped on their own land without planning permission.

The Department of the Environment has advised local authorities that they should not evict needlessly and that they should aim to tolerate the presence of gypsies on council land for short periods if this is practicable.

It is not true that, under the Caravan Sites Act 1968 (now repealed), local authorities could "claim designated status if they had provided caravan pitches across the county". This figure applied only to London boroughs and metropolitan districts and they could provide more if they felt it necessary, and compliance with their duty did not necessarily entitle them to designation. Other local authorities had a duty to

provide adequate accommodation for gypsies in their area and many provided well in excess of 15 pitches. A total of 380 official local-authority sites were available as at January 1, providing 5,287 family pitches, many of which can accommodate more than one caravan.

Neither is there evidence to suggest that "all official sites are full" or that "both official and unofficial sites are being closed down". Over 6,000 caravans were parked on local-authority sites in January 1996, the highest figure ever recorded on official sites. The Government remains committed to encouraging more gypsies to provide sites for themselves through the planning system, and gypsies who have submitted appeals against refusal of planning permission for private sites will continue to have those appeals heard fairly, and decided on their individual merits, as has always been the case. Some 3,561 caravans were counted on authorised privately owned sites in January 1996, again the highest figure ever recorded.

The importance of the European Court case is that it reaffirms that gypsies have the same rights under the planning process as anyone else.

Robert Jones MP,
Minister of State for Planning Construction,
Dept. of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 3EB.

Nigeria, still not forgotten

YOUR report that eight Commonwealth foreign ministers may visit Nigeria without guaranteed access to political prisoners and a cross-section of opinion is extremely disturbing (Nigeria faces abuses inquiry, September 30).

It is essential that the foreign ministers see the prisoners on both humanitarian and political grounds. Many of them, such as Dr Bako Ransome-Kuti, the human rights campaigner, are being kept in harsh conditions and their health is suffering. Some, like Chief Abiola, can claim a far more representative standing than General Abacha.

A Commonwealth which is trying to honour the Harare Declaration and create an association responsive to its peoples simply cannot participate in a guided tour by a military dictatorship.

It is impossible to establish

whether the Nigerian regime is moving a millimetre towards its Harare commitments without talking freely to its opponent.

No democratically elected foreign minister in today's Commonwealth should be seen talking exclusively to the military. We hope that Malcolm Rifkind and his colleagues have some understanding on access which they are unable to announce.

Richard Bourne,
Chair, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Trustee Committee,
28 Riverside Square,
London WC1B 5DS.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Since Michaelmas rain and wind have knocked off most of the sparse apple crop and brought down yellowing leaves and brittle twigs, rank bracken and milky blackberries lean out from hedges, almost meeting across narrow lanes. Field gateways are already muddy, poached by the daily traffic of dairy cows, and farmers face a depressing and expensive autumn feeding cull cows waiting in the long queue for slaughter under the BSE eradication scheme. Farm rents, paid at Michaelmas, range from £40 to £50 an acre on mixed stock and arable farms, with dairy farmers paying £50 to £100 per acre, depending on the landlord's fixed equipment and amount of milk quota. Apart from forage maize, most crops are gathered in after a good harvest with yields of around 3½ tons per acre of winter barley and 3½ tons of winter wheat. Barns are full of silage, hay and straw; merchants delivering big bale straw and hay at around £35 and £50 per ton and wrapped

silage at 28 to £12 per bale. Some winter corn is already filled and harvest festivals, suppers and produce auctions are in full swing. Between rain fronts, mellow sunshine enhances the ongoing burbling of trees; the abundance of shiny black elderberries, purple sloes and dark red hawthorn berries; the startling brilliance of scarce rows of outdoor chrysanthemums and clashing pink, yellow and orange dahlias. Picked for the cut-flower market, Callington's Honey Fair is on such a bright morning with scudding clouds casting blue shadows over Caradon Hill to the west. Honey bees cluster inside a glass demonstration section in the town hall and jars of honey, wax polish and honeyscomb are sold amongst china, T-shirts, ironing board covers and fast food stalls. Rowland's fun fair has taken over the supermarket car-park and the golden gallopers dip and circle on barleysugar-twist poles, gleaming in autumn sun.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

Oct 15 1996

Diary
Matthew Norman

THIS could be the week the Referendum Party emerges as a professional outfit. As if to drum this home, the press office sends a thick bundle of documents outlining the thoughts of new Referendum candidates — and splendid they are too. For example, Nicholas Westcott (Sraintree) says: "The next general election will be a farce", whereas Christopher Skeates (Woking) insists: "The Referendum Party has only one objective — a national vote on who governs Britain". Conversely, Bristol's John Quintanilla points that "under the Maastricht Treaty, Britain's sovereignty has been transferred to Brussels". Meanwhile, contesting the symbolic seat of Grantham, Marilyn Swain predicts: "The next general election will be a farce" while by way of variety Richard's Rupert King argues that "the next general election will be a farce". Sam Lovings in Triverton is of the "under the Maastricht Treaty, Britain's sovereignty has been transferred to Brussels". Douglas Hope (Sturton Coldfield) toes the "only one objective" line. Thus do the documents continue... and how refreshing to find parliamentary candidates who think for themselves.

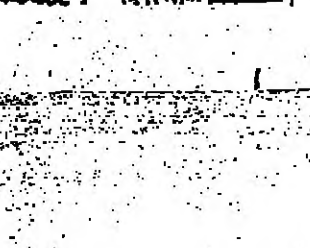
TROUBLE rears its head at Telegraph enforcer Boris the Jackal Johnson, who in a conference sketch referred to the "totty meter", an imaginary Geger counter that measures the stress of New Labour women. The piece ("Hot totty is on the agenda") carried pictures of three delegates, and the problem may lie in the dictionary definition of "totty" as Victorian slang for a prostitute — something quite capable of stimulating the imagination of M'Learned Friends. Oddly, the Jackal wasn't in yesterday. "Sorry darlin', but the Guv'nor's gawn aht," said an unfamiliar voice reminiscent of the late Patricia Hayes. But where, we asked, is your Geger counter? "It's Tuesday," said the voice. "So 'e'll be daln the Camden Women's Collective, at the non-sexist inner-child workshop for reassessin' gender bias."

IN Bournemouth, the Conservative Association tabled a motion for the conference's law and order debate. "This conference calls upon the judges to recognise the very poor opinion which the general public rightly has of them," it says, "and also to recognise the supremacy of Parliament."

NOTING reports that his column has been a victim of the shake-up at the seven-day Express, we called Sir Bernard Ingham to check his appointment as Deputy Astrologer. "Oh no," said Bernie. "Not again." Insisting that he will be staying with the paper — his column will appear weekly, as usual, although on which day he is uncertain — Bernie was even temperate at first. It was only when we asked whether he foresaw any career change in the stars that he exploded. "Oh bloody HELL, will you tell that BLOODY idiot (me, I suspect) that I've never LOOKED at the stars I've spoken to him FOUR TIMES now and I keep telling him that I've never LOOKED at the stars. I think the stars are bloody IDIOT! Will you tell that IDIOT (me again) that he's barking up the wrong tree?" Why he persists in this absurd game, we have no idea... but we have no intention of giving up now.

MYSTERY surrounds Dolly Draper, who, removed from the "sex, drugs 'n' politics" novel. "Ah," says Dolly coyly, "that's a question (no arguing there) and I haven't got an answer." Five minutes later she says: "Susan Moore mentioned it a year ago in a little paper called the Guardian." "I said then it was a cross between Brett Easton Ellis and Jeffrey Archer. I'm negotiating an advance now, and every time you mention it it goes up £500. Oh, and by the way," he adds, "I'm writing it under the name Dolly Draper." Well nothing to be ashamed of there. Not every one prefers a *nom de plume*, do they?

IT'S A BIT FUZZY. THE LADS FROM HIS MADE IT.



Deliver us from the celebrity baby

Commentary Catherine Bennett

THE MAKING of a baby is not, by all accounts, among the more challenging tasks known to man or woman. Production techniques have changed little over the years. Leaving aside all the complicated substitutes now being practised in fertility clinics, standard DIY conception remains, in all essentials, much as it was in my parents' day: no qualifications or experience necessary.

Nor, to judge by the contents of passing prams, or the pages of Hello! magazine, is there anything exceptional or untoward about the contemporary product. Puce, somnolent, and short on conversation, today's infants seem, to the uninitiated eye, neither better nor worse in quality than their ancestors; hardly distinguishable one from another, whatever the parentage. Although their parents can presumably tell them apart, there seems little, their stated sex aside, to distinguish "Fursey", eighth child of Francis Rossi (of the geiatric thrash-band Status

Quo), pictured in this week's Hello! magazine, from Brian Hall's daughter, "Madeleine", who appears in the latest issue of Granta (a magazine which used to pride itself on many adventure stories). The only marvel is that the conception and brief life-history of such babies should now be judged, by so many editors and writers, to be a source of amusement and novelty. Despite all indications to the contrary, such as women with big, sticking-out stomachs, supermarkets crammed with young families, and schools overflowing with children, many new parents, especially male parents, persist in believing that their own trials and achievements in pregnancy and childbirth department are quite out of the common run. Similarly, their newborns, which share with all other babies an absolute absence of singular achievements and abilities, are held up as paragons of infancy.

For Brian Hall, in the current child-dominated issue of Granta, his baby daughter, Madeleine is not only a more expert milk-sucker than other babies — she seemed by far the most avid nurse — but superior in almost every other respect: "Madeleine seemed an exceptionally happy baby when compared with her peers, almost never crying and engaged to an unusual degree with the world around her." An event that once required a brief announcement in

Births and Deaths now merits a full-length confession, replete with clinical detail. "I am in love with disposable nappies and awestruck by a special bin donated by a neighbour which turns them, once used, into a giant fragrant sausage," one father reported in last week's Sunday Telegraph, his wife having given birth, in what seemed to be utterly unexceptional circumstances, to their third child. These babies need not even be able to walk or talk. It suffices that they have recently been born — although a protracted or difficult entrance does make for livelier copy, particularly when related by the dazzled spectator. "It was amazing," Francis Rossi reports of Fursey's exit from his mother. "They just opened her up and took out the old scar from her last Caesarian and the next thing I know I can see Fursey's head. In a matter of seconds he's in a lucid state in my arms. As was like, 'Good thing this Caesarian'."

This is not, however, the type of birth favoured by the journalist Adam Nicolson, writing after the birth of his fifth child. For his thing, but a homebirth will do. "I now think that unless a Caesarian section is an absolute necessity," he writes sternly, "it is not the way to go." He relates, almost as proudly as if he had done it himself, how his latest baby, Molly, saw the light in a paddling pool. "This

of course is how it should be: an unbroken transition from womb to life...". Annoyingly, for those who plan to use his pregnancy as a model, Nicolson did not disclose whether ante-natal tests were allowed to disturb the unbroken transition. His editor, Dominic Lawson, is known to be furiously opposed to such procedures and to the terminations which sometimes follow them. "This is nothing less than the state-sponsored annihilation of viable, sentient foetuses," Lawson scolded, in a celebrated article on the birth of his daughter Daniela.

The fashion for such heroic and unsparring paternal testimony seems to have started when fine-natured, new-ish men tried to share — or rival — feminist attempts to de-medicalise and idealise child-bearing. From compulsory male attendance at ante-natal classes and the delivery room, it was but a short step to the treasurable Virago book *Fatherhood: Men Write About Fathering*, in which an assortment of writerly types demonstrated that sensitivity could go hand-in-hand with sperm count. "Man, the business of parenting is something," concluded Noah Richler, straining to express his commitment. As men know that a pregnancy would go ahead if they dropped down dead after insemination, such written expressions of paternal devotion take on an importance that they rarely have for women.

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COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9 Like Elvis, Maggie keeps on rocking



David McKie

ELVIS Presley is still alive. The man they buried in 1977, it now transpires, wasn't Elvis, but a man known only as Scott, who when he had only a few months to live was hired by Presley and reconstructed to look like him. Scott's death allowed the singer to do a bunk with his secret girlfriend known only as Maria, and to settle down to what he had always wanted: a life of quiet obscurity. Far-fetched? Maybe. But it must be true, since I read it on page one of the *People* newspaper on Sunday.

That people believe such things is no surprise, especially when you remember that Elvis was known as the King. We seem to have here a variant of a long-established phenomenon known as the Sleeping Emperor syndrome, where people so treasure a hero that they simply cannot bring themselves to accept his mortality. Sometimes the circumstances are much more mundane. There may be genuine doubt over whether some prominent figure is now alive or dead.

Now and then after the second world war someone or other would claim to have found Martin Bormann, who had to be tried in his absence at Nuremberg because he had fled in good time. But even in cases where death was respectably documented, doubts persisted. Hitler, some devotees claimed, had faked the deaths of himself and his mistress Eva Braun and was safely entrenched in South America. As the result of some political deal, Hess had been replaced in Spandau jail by an imposter, and permitted to end his life far away in tranquillity.

But these are minor-league legends. The greatest cases of Sleeping Emperor syndrome imply not just escape and resurrection. Even in our own century, some people in the South-west still subscribed to the legend that Arthur, the "once and future King", would one day return and recreate the greatness of Albion. For centuries, people believed the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne was not dead, but sleeping. He was waiting, crowned and armed, in Odenberg (Hesse) or Untertersburg, near Salzburg, and might well be roused by the mention of a crusade. His 13th-century successor Frederick Barbarossa hadn't died either, but sat at a stone table with six knights within a hill in Thuringia, his beard

growing through the stone, awaiting his moment to rescue Germany from its bondage and make it the greatest power in the world. Most self-respecting countries can boast at least one sleeping emperor or equivalent. Portugal and Brazil share Sebastian I; the Danes have King Dan; the Irish, Finn MacCool. Sometimes such legends can boast at least one sleeping emperor or equivalent. Portugal and Brazil share Sebastian I; the Danes have King Dan; the Irish, Finn MacCool.

We pride ourselves on being less credulous now. And yet this yearning in times of doubt and doubt for days of glory is never dispelled, but one day, perhaps, to return. We pride ourselves on being less credulous now. And yet this yearning in times of doubt and doubt for days of glory is never dispelled, but one day, perhaps, to return.

Like most legends, this one doesn't always accord with reality. In practice, Margaret Thatcher, when the occasion demanded, temporised and compromised. Were she still in office, it's by no means clear that she'd speak on Europe with the same unambitious certainty with which she does now. BUT SUCH details fade in this context. Thatcher for many bestrode Tories was their Arthur, their Charlemagne, their Barbarossa. Their heads tell them she has gone, but their hearts cannot accept it. Occasionally, wistfully, in the writings of faithful knights like Paul Johnson, you see the dream that Margaret — still the best of them — might even now come back. A Mori poll in last week's *Economist* asked Tory supporters who they would like to see leading the party after the election. John Major (27 per cent) came top; Michael Heseltine (15) second; Margaret Thatcher was third, backed by 13 per cent.



Literary prizes should be celebrations of writers. Instead, says Michael Holroyd, we see their news value in terms of only scandal — as Harold Pinter has lately found

Unreserved judgment

WE ARE now entering again the literary-prize season. I take a special interest in it. Though people sometimes describe me as a "prize-giving author", I am really a prize-winning author. I have judged the Whitbread Prize for fiction, biography and children's books, the Arts Council Award for autobiography; the Margaret Rhonda Award for women journalists. I have helped to hand out Arts Council bursaries and travel scholarships on behalf of the Society of Authors. I am a founder trustee of the Authors' Foundation, which gives grants to writers in the middle of their books, and for more than six years I sat on the management committee that made the rules and appointed the judges of the Booker Prize. Also I have chaired the two David Cohen British Literature Prizes that have so far been awarded. Surely I must be by now the *éminentissime* of the literary-prize world. Or do most authors go through this treadmill? In all this time I have never been bribed or bullied, never been handed a brown envelope or given a subpoena. It is puzzling. According to the novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, I should have behaved more like the Rolling Stones — which tells you how long ago most of this was. Several times in the past I tried to persuade Booker to give some money to the short-listed authors — say, £1,000. I always failed because, I was told, people liked its *unfairness*. In fact each prize is a lottery in which, you hope, the better books get the most tickets. The David Cohen British Literature Prize practises an ingenious form of fairness. It is a most humane and imagi-

MALE IMPOTENCE

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Manche...

Geoffrey Finsberg

Bullish in battle

HALF his former Hampstead and Highgate constituents would not have recognised the mellowed Lord (Geoffrey) Finsberg, who has died of a heart attack aged 70, in Stockholm a happy man, unlike the combative and abrasive MP who had served the constituency from 1970-92.

point from which to observe the historic changes in central and eastern Europe. Overseas he was able to display the charm he limited to friends and Tories at home.

He was born in Hampstead the son of Monte Finsberg, who had won an MC and became a Handley Page aircraft inspector. Young Geoffrey went to the City of London School. He did his National Service as a "Bevin Boy" in the manpower-starved coalmines, an arduous experience for a feline young man.

from his Hampstead seat by Labour's Ben Whitaker in 1966, the high tide of Labour support. The contest was on for a fighter to retake this beachhead. It came down to two Jewish "bachelors", Leon Brittan and Geoffrey Finsberg. Finsberg won under the slogan, "If being a bachelor is good enough for our leader [Edward Heath], it's good enough for me!"



'A one-man battering ram'... Finsberg

Stuart Piggott

Master of the ancient past

STUART PIGGOTT, who has died aged 86, was one of this country's most eminent archaeologists of the prehistoric age. As Abercromby Professor of prehistoric archaeology (1946-77) at Edinburgh University he was, together with Graham Clark at Cambridge and Christopher Hawkes at Oxford, one of a triumvirate of prehistorians whose international stature cast a shadow over the next generation.

Sometimes caricatured as having done nothing for Scottish archaeology, Piggott contributed more to European, southern British and Scottish archaeology than most scholars. But he had no great affection for, or affinity with, Scotland, and on retirement he returned to Galloway, in Berkshire.

Piggott learned his craft as an apprentice with the wealthy and eccentric marmalade magnate, Alexander Keiller. His first job was as an assistant at Reading Museum but in 1928 he joined the staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments for Wales, where he developed an instant aversion to the North Wales landscape and to "a deadening atmosphere of dim mediocrity" in the civil service in London.

Piggott's survey of Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles (1954), and his involvement in excavations at West Kennet, Waylands Smithy and Stonehenge established him as the leading authority on the Neolithic in Britain, but it is nonetheless as a European prehistorian that his reputation was principally secured.

He then became Keiller's assistant director at the Avebury excavations. In 1930 his groundbreaking study of the early Bronze Age in Wessex was published. In it he introduced the concept of the Wessex culture, with its long-distance connections to the Baltic and Mycenaean Greece.

His work on the Ancient Peoples and Places series, edited by his close personal friend, Glyn Daniel, Daniel not only shared his archaeological interests, especially in the antiquarian history of archaeology, but also his passion for wine and good food.

With the war, Piggott was posted to India, where he was a lieutenant-colonel in charge of military air-photographic interpretation for south-east Asia. He continued his archaeological research which resulted in Some Ancient Cities of India (1946) and Prehistoric India (1950).

After retirement Piggott continued to research a long-time interest in wheeled vehicles in antiquity, publishing The Earliest Wheeled Transport from the Atlantic to the Caspian Sea in 1963, with a sequel, Wagon, Chariot and Carriage in 1982.

Returning to Oxford at the end of the war, his research on William Stukeley, the 18th-century antiquary, was published as a monograph in 1950. By then he had already been appointed to the Abercromby chair by the University of Edinburgh.

He was a member of many academic bodies and held honorary doctorates from Edinburgh and Columbia University, and in 1972 he was made CBE. Evidence of universal respect, and of no little affection, is revealed by the wide range of contributions to his two festschrift volumes, Studies in Ancient Europe, 1964 and To Illustrate the Monuments, 1976, both of which were edited by his former pupils.

Piggott's "Scottish period" embraced a number of important excavations, notably at Cairnpapple Hill near Edinburgh and at Dalladies near Montrose, as well as his interest in the excavations which his wife Peggy (CM Piggott) was directing in the Borders. Piggott's Scottish publications included his essay, Scotland before History (1958, revised 1982), and an edited volume, The Prehistoric Peoples of Scotland (1962).

He served long terms on the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland, as a trustee of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, and as a commissioner of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. He had a key role in mounting a University Library exhibition, Three Centuries of Scottish Archaeology, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Abercromby Chair.

Gene Nelson

Dancing in the shadows

MALE dancing in the Hollywood musical was dominated for so many years by Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, that their shadows were cast over several other very fine dancers. Gene Nelson, who has died aged 76, was one of the best.

Nelson, more than other gangling booters such as Dan Bailey, Ray Bolger and Buddy Ebsen, could be compared with the more famous Gena. Both Kelly and Nelson were superbly athletic and graceful. However, while Kelly had the MGM musical department to allow his inventive choreography and dancing to flourish, Nelson was stuck in inconsequential and hackneyed Warner Bros musicals and the amiable, fair-haired Nelson, had neither Kelly's drive, personality nor imagination.

He was born Eugene Leander Berg in Seattle, the son of a Douglas Aircraft machinist. When his parents moved to Los Angeles, he attended Santa Monica High School, shining at running, swimming, football and ice skating. The last skill enabled him to leave school at 16 — he was never known as an intellectual giant — and join Sonja Henie's touring ice show.

While serving in the wartime Signal Corps, Nelson sang and danced in the mammoth Irving Berlin touring troop show, This is the Army, which entertained the armed forces abroad. Back in New York, he was spotted by a 20th Century-Fox talent scout and given a contract. But after small roles in two films, the studio let him go.



On the hoof... Gene Nelson gets in the mood with Doris Day in Lullaby of Broadway

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Ken Murphy

In the files of fame

KEN MURPHY, who has died aged 74, played a part in guarding the Guardian's library for almost 40 years. A natural watchdog of a man, his famed reluctance to be interviewed was broken at intervals by sunny invitations to dine of his home-made gazpacho, surrounded by scissors, glue and newspaper.

turned on his library. First employed in Manchester, he became absorbed in the history of the city's cotton industry and built up a collection of specialist files which astonished his new colleagues when much of the paper moved to London in 1982.

once in passing, was Barnardo's. He was an orphan of mixed race, with Irish and black South African parentage which lent him a striking appearance. The Guardian's then editor, A.P. Wadsworth took to Murphy in 1947 both as a bright young man and as an opportunity to make a deliberate example of what would now be called positive discrimination. Ken stayed with the Guardian until 1987, serving as chief librarian between 1983 and 1979 and latterly as chief archivist.

His devotion to cricket also made him many acquaintances. He was pleased to have the chance to combine his enthusiasm for the game with his professional skills in compiling figures for Wisden.

long enthusiasm, cats. Asked recently to look after one of these while his owner went on holiday, he declined because he had been feeling unwell. The neighbour returned last week, noticed that Ken's lights were never on and informed the police, who broke in and found his body.

Birthdays

Joe Ashton, Labour MP, 63; Carling Bassett-Seguso, tennis player, 28; Brian Blessed, actor, 59; Jackson Browne, rock singer, 48; Sally Burgess, opera singer, 43; Paul Channon, former Conservative minister, 61; Sir Colin Corness, chairman, Redland, 56; Demel Davies, Labour MP, 58; Peter Elliott, athlete, 34; John Entwistle, rock musician, 52; Lord Hailsham, CH, former Lord Chancellor, 89; The Duke of Kent, 61; Don McCullin, photographer, 61; Thomas Malcolmson, ambassador to Panama, 56; Fred Peter Mansfield, physicist, 63; Marianne Neville-Rofe, senior civil servant, 52; Steve Ovett, athlete, 41; John Pilger, journalist and filmmaker, 57; Andy Platt, rugby league footballer, 33; Michael Saunders Watson, chairman, Heritage Education Trust, 62; Sir Stephen Sedley, High Court judge, 57; Donald Sinden, actor, 73; Bill Tidy, cartoonist, 63.

Death Notices

TAYLOR, Marjorie, on 8th October 1996 aged 87 years. Marjorie was Chair of Trustees of The Terence Higgins Trust 1980-83. He passed the partner of 51 years, Tom, Passed at Golden Green Crematorium on Thursday 10th October 1996. Donations may be sent to Marjorie's Memory, Halcroft Road, London SE24 7NA.

In Memoriam

COLLIERIE, Deborah, a treasured partner, daughter and sister. Higher still and higher from the Earth the spirit went like a cloud of fire and the dust that remained. And singing still do dawn and evening (To a Skyline - Shelley).

Engagements

RUNYON-BARNISTER, Anne & Andy are delighted to announce their engagement. For anyone who wants the latest news on the wedding, contact the telephone.

Jackdaw



Weekend break

SALON de Fleurus' walls are covered with paintings by Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse. There is French music playing quietly in the background. An assortment of black-clad strangers mill about, chatting, looking at the paintings, behaving as if they are visiting a museum. However, this is an apartment in New York's Soho district, and the paintings are all fakes.

Christmas cuts

THE recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole. Streamlining was appropriate in view of the reality that the North Pole no longer dominates the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share. Effective immediately, the following

economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant. The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated. (The three French hens will remain intact.) The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. The six geese-a-laying which can no longer be afforded. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good

one. The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. Mechanical swans are on order. As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps. Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with fan-out-of-work congressmen. Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cut-back on new music and no uniforms will produce savings. We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses.

Anti millennium

HATHAWAY examines the prospects for the next three or four years, and suggests that the Antichrist, "may well be revealed in Russia". His most specific speculation relates to the possible identity of the

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Civilization

Antichrist. Quoting the Gog and Magog prophecies from Ezekiel 38 and 39, where a massive army attacks Israel from the north as part of the "End Times scenario". He says that, "It would appear there is one man alive today who could fit and fulfil this prophecy 'Vladimir Volfovitch Zhirinovskiy', and points out that 'Josephus, amongst other ancient historians, identifies Magog as

Care & share

IN AN attempt to work out if major corporations actually care about us as people, the following message was sent to "customer support" desks. Hello, sorry to bother you but you are support and I have a problem however strange it is. There's this girl that I really like and I think about

Emily Sheffield

Cash deals hold a Clarke

4,000 new for Scotland

Secret PIA pension redress held to

Handwritten signature or note

Manchester United plays it down, page 12

The return of the tilting train, page 12

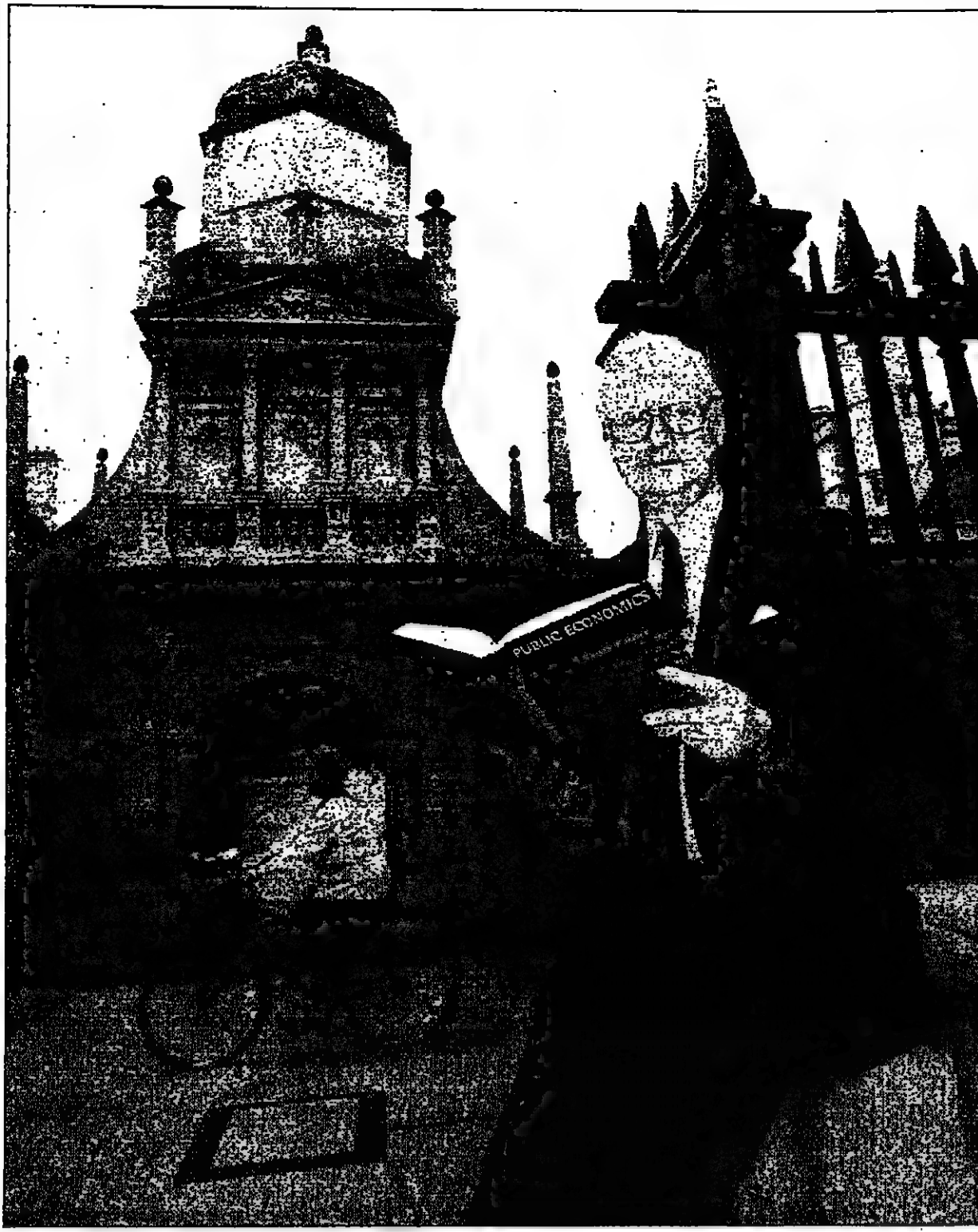
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

'Cash back' deals put on hold after Clarke acts

MORE than £800 million worth of 'cash back' deals were put on hold last night as the City grappled with the implications of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's surprise move to scrap tax relief on companies handing back surplus money and shares to stock market investors...

Plans (Peps) or life assurance and pension policies could be affected, according to Derek Jenkins, a tax partner with accountants Coopers & Lybrand. Accountants warn that investors in Peps could be affected because the structure of their shareholding has up till now enjoyed the same perks as big City firms...



Prof Mirrlees at Cambridge. His work explains distortions in some market activities

PHOTOGRAPH: FINDLAY KEMPER

Nobel prize for imperfect information

Richard Thomas on economist's work that 'backs Blairism'

BRITISH academic has won the Nobel economics prize for his work showing that some people know much more than other people - and that such 'asymmetric information' distorts market activity...

which Prof Mirrlees said were 'more Gordon Brown than Kenneth Clarke in as much as there is a difference' - the two men challenged the conventional economic assumption that perfect information is shared by buyers and sellers in any market...

Top professors: Number of Nobel Economics prizes winners, 1969-96. US: 24, UK: 7, Norway & Sweden: 1. Also named (one prize each): Canada, France, Soviet Union, Holland, Germany.

The talents of a potential recruit than the applicant. John Kay, the chairman of think-tank London Economics, who studied under Prof Mirrlees, reckons his work backs the new political economy of stakeholding...

4,000 new jobs for Scotland

SCOTLAND savoured the news of a £2.4 billion inward investment yesterday as Labour and Conservatives squabbled over the political implications of a Korean computing group's decision to put down roots in Edinburgh...

Hyundai Electronics Europe is to build two state-of-the-art semiconductor plants on a 150-acre site at Duffersmillie, the burial place of Scotland's best-known king, Robert the Bruce...

Secret PIA pensions report says redress held to £24m

ONLY £24 million has so far been paid in redress to people hoodwinked into leaving a company pension scheme by unscrupulous insurance salesmen...

The report, parts of which the PIA may publish later in the year, is also believed to show that only 3,000 victims have been offered redress totalling £27 million...

B&B chief's redundancy pledge

HUNDREDS of jobs are to go at Bradford & Bingley, Britain's fifth largest building society, in a cost-cutting drive over the next 18 months...

erating costs in line with other building societies. It had no plans for compulsory redundancies but would offer voluntary redundancy and early retirement...

months ago. In a document entitled New Foundations, he told them it was 'too early to be precise about the exact future shape of the society'...

... but will lead to 500 new posts at luxury chocolate company

LUXURY chocolate company Thorntons yesterday warned that it would cost £22 million over the next two years to turn round its ailing business...

Chairman John Thornton said the company had failed to focus on retailing in the past few years. As a result, the product range had not been updated and many of its shops were too small and in poor locations...

The gains left sales slightly ahead of last year, at \$97 million, but operating profit before exceptional costs slipped from \$11 million to \$8 million...

Kipper Williams advertisement featuring a cartoon of a man sitting at a desk with a speech bubble that says 'I'VE EXPANDED'. There are other smaller figures and text around him.

City raided by the Chancellor



Edited by Alex Brummer

AS FAR as the Tory Party conference is concerned, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's decision to close the tax loophole that has made share buybacks so popular...

distributed signals worse to come in November, with perhaps a further reduction in the corporation tax credit to 15 per cent, in line with other allowances such as the married couples and Miras...

Mutual reality

IN A period when other building societies felt compelled - without any real necessity - to follow the Halifax route and convert to bank status, the Bradford & Bingley has shown the courage to become the champion of mutuality...

While the converting societies are sitting on their hands, offering investors the poorest rates of return in decades, those like the B&B, Nationwide and Forthman have chosen to reward their members with better returns, good value mortgages and bonuses...

However, the B&B also has made it clear that it plans, as best it can, to proceed by consent rather than sackings people. The point is it has very little choice. The B&B is now competing directly with PICA which will be disciplined by the stock market...

Watchdog may act on nuclear safety

Simon Davis and Paul Brown

THE official watchdog on nuclear safety warned last night that it could be forced to take action if plans to axe more than 1,300 jobs compromise safety in the newly privatised industry...

Unions attacked the job cuts last night as a 'sop' to shareholders and a clear bid to sustain the company's prospectus pledges on dividends...

The City reacted to news of an imminent announcement by pushing the shares up 2p to 107.5p - 2.5p above their 106p partly-paid issue price...

Table with 5 columns: Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate, Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

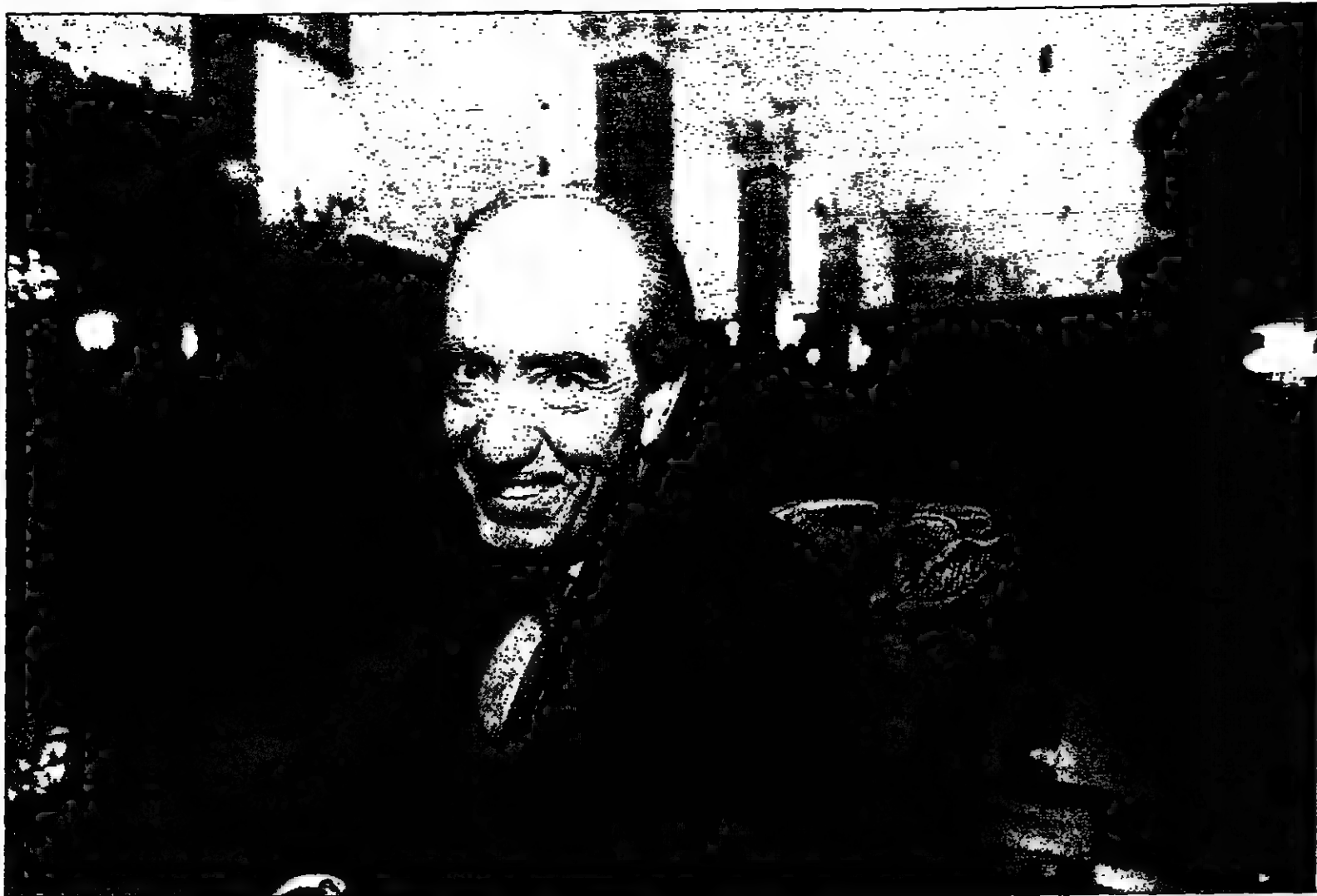
Savoy keeps an eye on past

RAMON Pajares, managing director of the Savoy Hotel group, shows off the newly refurbished front hall of the hotel. The restoration by David Linley and Nina Campbell, is part of a £62 million redesign programme covering all five of the group's UK properties.

Also due for a facelift are Claridge's, the Berkeley, which is to open a new sports club, and the Connaught.

At the Savoy, the rooms and suites have been also refurbished, new air conditioning fitted, and the famous American Bar redecorated.

Mr Pajares, whose actions have provoked criticism from some Savoy traditionalists, said the programme was being handled with "the utmost care". The archives had been raided for original drawings and designs to ensure the work was sympathetic.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

Demerger is designed to take American Brands out of the increasingly litigious US tobacco market

Gallaher set for £2.5bn stock market flotation

Pauline Springett

GALLAHER, the UK's largest tobacco company with brands including Silk Cut and Benson & Hedges, is to be demerged from its US parent, American Brands, and listed separately on the Stock Exchange with a value of around £2.5 billion.

The move is subject to agreement with the American tax authorities as well as shareholder approval. Gallaher has a 40 per cent share of the £10 billion UK tobacco market.

The demerger will further change the face of the rapidly evolving UK tobacco industry. Only last week the former

Hanson tobacco subsidiary, Imperial Tobacco, was listed on the stock market. Its market share is only slightly smaller than that of Gallaher. Imperial Tobacco has a market capitalisation of £2.1 billion.

The move by American Brands comes against the background of an increasingly litigious climate in the US and growing consumer hostility there over the link between smoking and cancer.

American Brands acknowledged that the effects of this was one of the driving forces behind its decision. "Since Gallaher will be recognised more clearly as a UK/European tobacco manufacturer operating in an environment significantly different from

the current US tobacco litigation and regulatory environment, the value inherent in that operation should be more apparent," the company said.

Gallaher's brands also include Old Hoborn tobacco and Hamlet cigars. More than 90 per cent of its sales are in the UK, but its European sales are on the increase. It now sells three billion cigarettes in the former Soviet Union and is planning to start manufacturing there soon.

A Gallaher spokesman said the demerger was "great news" for the company and its 3,700 employees in Weybridge, Manchester, Cardiff, Crewe and Northern Ireland.

Gallaher's chairman and chief executive, Peter Wilson, said he was excited by the opportunity and added that the spin-off represented the best deal for shareholders. If the demerger is approved, probably next year, American Brands will be renamed Fortune Brands. It has annual sales of \$4.6 billion (£2.9 billion) and owns hardware, distilled spirits, golf and office equipment brands. It will cease to have tobacco interests after the demerger.

BAT, the other main UK company with tobacco interests, does not actually sell tobacco in the UK. Jonathan Feil, at brokers Merrill Lynch, said there was some speculation that BAT may bid for either Imperial Tobacco or Gallaher in the next few months in order to establish a UK tobacco operation.

He added that they "obviously chose instead to perpetuate their deadly cover-up".

The memo says: "If the predictions of the US lawyers are correct we could lose a cancer suit, and this could lead to a new industry in America and elsewhere, that of suing tobacco companies, costing a lot of money."

A BAT spokesman dismissed the memo as containing nothing new. "It sounds to me like another document taken out of context and from which selective quotes have been made," he said.

He acknowledged that the debate over the possible effects of smoking had indeed started by 1980, but stressed: "We've always said that smoking was a risk factor in certain diseases but that the precise mechanism that causes those diseases is not fully understood."

The US tobacco industry is facing a barrage of litigation over the link between smoking and various respiratory diseases. Last month BAT was given a boost when a court in Florida reversed the recent flood of anti-tobacco judgments.

BAT denies it knew about smoking-cancer link in 1980

BAT, the tobacco and insurance conglomerate, yesterday fiercely denied that a newly-unearthed internal memorandum suggested that the company knew of the link between smoking and cancer as far back as 1980, writes Pauline Springett.

The 14-page memorandum, written in 1980, has been filed by state prosecutors in the US state of Minnesota, which is one of 17 states seeking to recover Medicaid costs incurred while treating tobacco-related illnesses. Medicaid is a government-funded health insurance programme for the poor.

Minnesota's attorney general, Hubert Humphrey III, said the memo revealed that executives from BAT had "considered finally confessing the truth about tobacco and health for the sake of their integrity".

News in brief

Call for full access to EMU payment system

HOWARD Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, yesterday sought to disarm German opposition to banks from countries which do not sign up for monetary union gaining access to the post-EMU cross-border payments systems.

Although Mr Davies did not mention Germany by name, he sought to play down fears expressed by senior Bundesbank officials in recent weeks that allowing banks outside EMU full access to the Target payment system would hinder the conduct of monetary policy.

Speaking to the British Computer Society last night Mr Davies said that Target would provide a "worldwide improvement" to the single European market system but only if all banks had access to it during the trading day.

"The German central bank is worried that allowing non-Euro banks access to the system could lead to the creation of euro-denominated credits outside the control of the European central bank."

"Our view is that this is mistaken and that it is perfectly possible to prevent any tangible spill-over from the settlement system by imposing penalties on overnight borrowing," said Mr Davies.

"In other words, banks will need to settle up their positions at the end of the day, and pay heavily if they don't, which will surely encourage them to do so." — Mark Miller

Restructuring cuts Lucas jobs

THE Lucas car parts and aerospace group revealed that restructuring and cost-cutting had removed another 1,300 jobs in the year to July and a further 250 since then, leaving a 46,500 workforce.

Lucas's last results as a separate company before merger with the American Varty group showed a 41 per cent rise in profits to £191.2 million in the year to July before one-off items. The car parts group said its margins had widened and its aerospace business had rebounded.

Group chairman Sir Brian Pearce, said the £2.2 billion merger was going "extremely smoothly" but gave no details of the company's proposed five-year business plan, which is expected to involve more heavy cost-cutting and job losses. Some analysts believe that cost savings of more than £200 million are being sought over the next two years. — Tony May

Share raid on Blenheim

VNU, a Dutch publishing company, snapped up a 15 per cent stake in the Blenheim exhibitions group for £89 million in a dawn raid on the stock market yesterday. VNU said it was making a "long-term investment" and strongly denied that its raid, at 500p a share, was a "spoiling tactic" to block potential bids from other companies.

United News & Media and Reed International have been reported as making offers for Blenheim. Analysts said VNU had effectively locked out any other bid approach.

A spokeswoman for Blenheim declined to say if the company had any plans to meet the VNU management or if talks had occurred ahead of the raid. The Blenheim board owns about a quarter of the company's stock and Compagnie Generale des Baux holds 15 per cent.

VNU focuses on consumer publishing, regional press, educational publications, and trade and professional titles with limited exhibition interests.

Tipplers dodge £573m in tax

THE EXCHEQUER is losing £573 million a year in excise and VAT because of consumers crossing the Channel to avoid British excise on alcohol, according to the Wine and Spirit Association. It said the average car brought over 80 bottles, a jump of 66 per cent on last year, while the average number of spirits bottles was 6.7. Only 1 in 50 vehicles return from the Continent without any alcohol against one in four in 1995.

Meanwhile, the association said the proportion of the market paying UK excise duty had slipped from 39.8 per cent in 1993 to 7.7 per cent this year, with the average vehicle on the Dover-Calais run costing £145.4 in lost excise. — Ian King

Vodafone chief steps down

SIR Gerry Whent is to step down at the end of the year as chief executive of Vodafone Group, a post he has held since the company was formed 13 years ago. He will remain on the board in the newly created post of deputy chairman. Chris Gent, managing director of the main Vodafone mobile phone subsidiary, will take over as group chief executive. — Nicholas Bannister

Reds' managers prove shy and play down season's 'goal tally'

Outlook/Manchester United is keeping a low profile about its prospects despite winning the Double. Ian King reports

IT IS highly unusual for companies at results briefings to play down prospects for the year, but then again, Manchester United is no ordinary company.

Before Reds fans get too worried, however, it should be pointed out that chief executive Martin Edwards was not talking about events on the football field.

What he means is that Manchester United, despite having just pulled off the league and cup Double, still has more to do in a non-playing capacity.

True, the company has just re-built the North Stand at the club's Old Trafford home, boasting average attendances to a chunky 64,762.

But according to Mr Edwards, rivals like Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United now enjoy better training facilities than United, whose much-loved Cliff training ground — renowned in the Halloway days of the Busby Babes — dates back to the 1920s.

Accordingly, United is looking to build a brand-new training ground, comparable with class European clubs such as Ajax Amsterdam, at a likely cost of at least £10 million.

Of course, the big question neither Mr Edwards nor chairman Sir Roland Smith

would answer yesterday was what stage United has reached in launching its own TV channel, or how far putative takeover talks got recently with media group VCI.

Al Sir Roland would say that the approach from VCI — thought to have valued United at around £300 million — had never got past the "informal stage", that the Stock Exchange had not rapped United over the knuckles for going public with the information and that the matter was now "water under the bridge".

But United shareholders — and supporters — will be more excited about the prospects for the company's pay-per-view opportunities. Shareholders will cash in, despite the fact that a United pay-per-view channel will not be allowed to show live football, while supporters — even those who cannot afford the channel — will benefit if, as Mr Edwards admits is possible, ticket prices are cut to ensure full houses at every home match.

However, with 100,000 members scrambling for just 12,000 tickets every match day, a cut in gate prices does not yet look imminent.

Following the rebuilding of the North Stand — which United blamed yesterday for

the fall in full-year pre-tax profits from £20 million to £15.4 million — there are no plans for the time being to extend the ground although it is possible to do so.

More significant for the club's future, however, is news that long-term contracts have been agreed with eight of the current first team squad, blocking the threat of

losing some in the post-Bosman environment, while the five foreign players signed this summer have also agreed contracts.

Only Ryan Giggs has yet to sign on a long-term basis, apart from Eric Cantona (who has one year left on his contract) and Andy Cole (two years left), and, although inflated players' salaries, post-Bosman, have hoisted the wage bill by £9 million a year, it at least means this aspect of United's overheads is now fixed for the next five years.

United's net spending on players came to £1.3 million in the last year, and since the year-end, the club is already up on transfer deals — following the sale of Lee Sharpe to Umbro, means the acquisition of Jordi Cruyff from Barcelona — with the £8 million transfer fee reserve still in place on the balance sheet.

In the meantime, United expects to make at least £5 million from participation in this year's European Champions League, while the new TV contract agreed by the Premier League with BSkyB and the BBC for the next five domestic seasons, along with the new kit deal agreed with Umbro, means that income should jump substantially.

Given all this, it is puzzling that Mr Edwards and Sir Roland should play down United's potential for next year, despite the added player costs. It suggests the VCI approach, however informal, has opened their eyes to the possibility that a predator may be lurking.

Manchester United

Stock market value	£281m
Share price	453 1/2p
Workforce	538
Interest cover	N/A
YEAR	%
1995	+12
1996	+12
1997	+12
1998	+12
1999	+12
2000	+12
2001	+12
2002	+12
2003	+12
2004	+12
2005	+12
2006	+12
2007	+12
2008	+12
2009	+12
2010	+12

Rail bidders must tilt to demands for high speed

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BIDDERS for the key rail route between London and Glasgow must agree to using new tilting trains, costing £500 million, in order to win the franchise.

The rail franchise director, Roger Salmon, and Railtrack's chairman, Bob Horton, want to see the introduction of tilting trains as a way of significantly reducing journey times — London to Manchester would be reduced to 2 hours, and London to Glasgow to 4 hours 20 minutes.

Railtrack is committed to spending £1.3 billion on the route over the next 10 years.

The sharp curves on the 400-mile west coast main line, one of the busiest in Britain, makes the tilting train an attractive proposition. It is capable of speeds of 125 mph, which is faster than conventional trains.

Mr Horton said that Railtrack would add a further £150 million of improvements to help services.

Among the 14 applications which have pre-qualified in the bidding are Richard Branson and a management buy-out team.

A predecessor of the tilting train was developed by British Rail almost 20 years ago and put through a series of tests, but on one high-profile run, the train broke down and the project was eventually abandoned.

But the idea was picked up in other parts of the world, particularly in Italy, Sweden and Japan, where advanced models of BR's early prototype are in daily use.

The west coast line is one of the last of BR's 25 passenger franchises to be let, and is in need of heavy investment. But it has considerable potential and is being linked to the high-speed, cross-channel rail

link from St Pancras in London and may also be linked to Heathrow.

Mr Salmon said: "I am laying down a challenge to the new rail industry to build on this platform by submitting innovative bids which will revolutionise services."

The downside of the plan is that it will take a decade to bring the line up to scratch. It has been cash starved, while the east coast route between London and Edinburgh has been modernised. If agreement is reached on tilting trains, they are not expected to appear until 2002.

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Cycling

Armstrong in cancer trauma

American's career under threat, writes William Fotheringham

AS SHADOW was cast over the opening of the World Road Championships here when the 1993 world champion, Lance Armstrong of the United States, revealed yesterday evening that he is suffering from testicular cancer and may not race again.

Armstrong, who is 24, is from Texas but he was resident just over the Italian border at Como for several years.

He has won two stages in the Tour de France and in last year's race had to cope with the sudden death of his Italian team-mate Fabio Casartelli after a crash on a descent in the Pyrenees.

The American called a telephone conference from his home in Austin, Texas to reveal that the cancer was diagnosed on October 2 and that the following day he had an operation in St David's Hospital, Austin, to remove a tumour from one of his testicles. That operation was a

success but it was then discovered that the cancer had spread to his abdomen and he will now need to undergo a 12-week course of chemotherapy.

"I fully intend to make a recovery in order to ride some races in 1997," said Armstrong, but added that he had only a 65 to 80 per cent chance of making a full recovery. As a result there is speculation here that he will not ride again at the highest level.

Armstrong is celebrated for an aggressive riding style that has brought him notable one-day successes such as the San Sebastian World Cup race last year and the Flèche Wallonne classic this season. He is trying to be equally upbeat about his future: "I hope this will be a positive experience, and I want to take the chance to help other people who could suffer from the same thing themselves one day," he said.

Today sees the women's and under-23 men's time trials, and Britain's main hope for a medal will be Boardman's protégé Yvonne McGregor. The Yorkshirewoman had a disappointing Olympic and then saw her chances in the world track championships in Manchester ruined by a cold.

The most notable British absentee is the eccentric Scot Graeme Obree, who has not competed since Atlanta where he performed far below his usual standard because of a virus which has affected his entire season. He subsequently pulled out of defend-

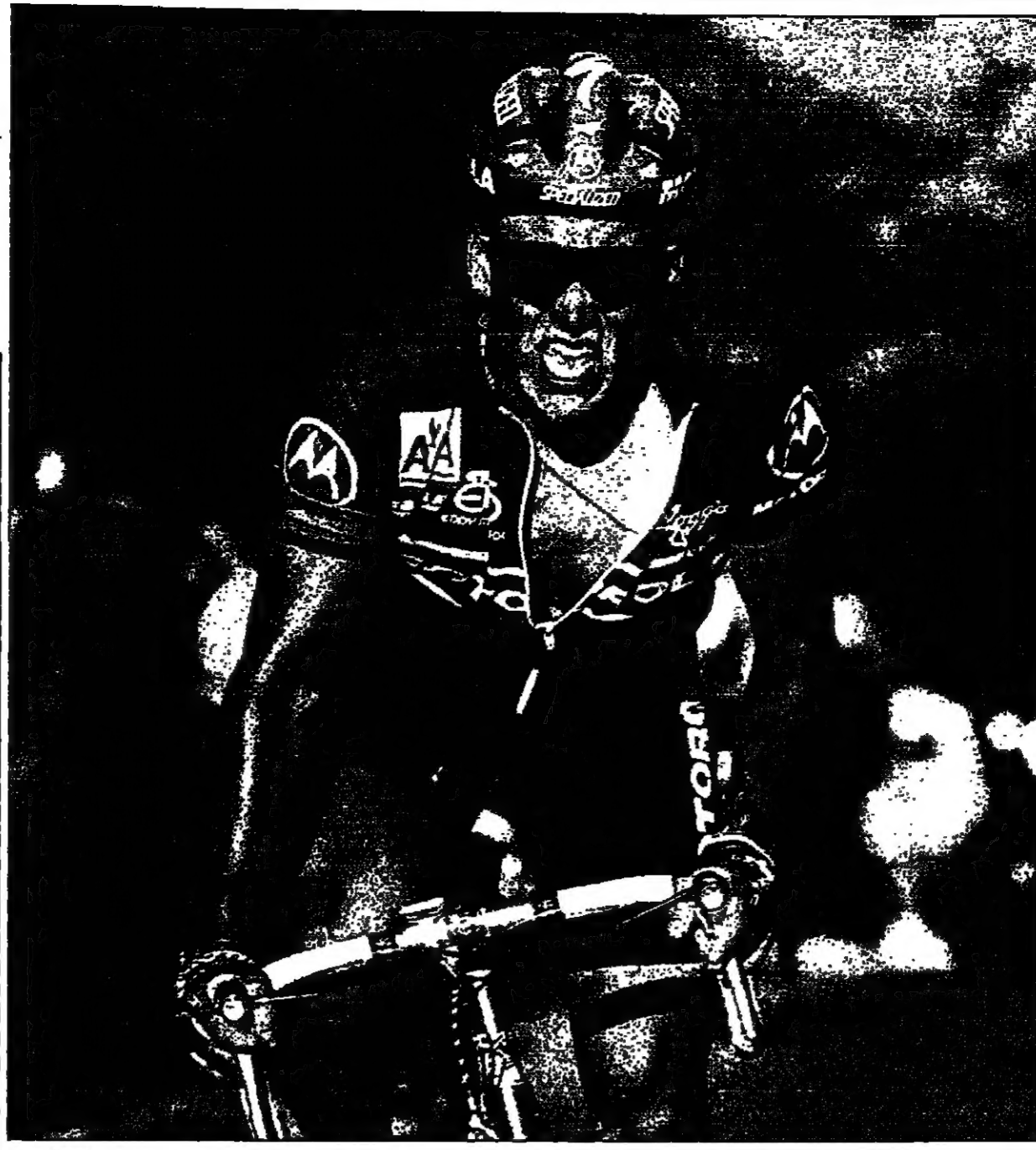
ing his world track pursuit title at Manchester, and then turned down the place offered him alongside Boardman in the British team here.

After a career which saw him break the prestigious hour record twice and take two world track titles, Obree is considering retirement to take up producing handbells.

"I am considering my future very carefully. It will either be total commitment to the sport or I will not race at all, and it is likely to be the latter. The only thing I would make a comeback for is the hour record, and the distance Chris Boardman has set would make me think twice about that."

Besides Obree and Armstrong, the man who will be most missed here is the Olympic champion Pascal Richard, who was expected to lead the Swiss team in the next prestigious event, Sunday's elite road race championship. One of the finest one-day racers in world cycling, Richard has hardly competed since winning the title in Atlanta, and put his withdrawal down to a lack of motivation and lack of form.

Another non-starter will be Frank Vandembroucke, the Belgian who has been picked up by a virus. However, he, Richard and Obree would be the first to admit that their problems are on the molehill scale compared with the mountain now facing Armstrong who will be in most people's minds here this week.



Happier times... Armstrong, who may not race again at top level, during the 1993 Tour du Pont. PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE POWELL

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Racing

Weaver set to appeal against Pontefract ban

Jason Weaver, criticised for his riding of Double Trigger at Longchamp and in trouble with the stewards at Pontefract on Monday, came out fighting yesterday when he decided to appeal against the four-day ban which would rule him out of next week's Cesarewitch meeting.

The jockey will challenge the suspension for irreparable riding imposed at Pontefract and will persuade the Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee the offence was accidental.

"If the latest ban is confirmed, a five-day suspension is far too much and having viewed the incident I have decided to appeal. Rules are rules and we all have to abide by them but what happened at Pontefract was minimal," Weaver said. "The punishment is far too much and having viewed the incident I have decided to appeal. Rules are rules and we all have to abide by them but what happened at Pontefract was minimal."

Weaver missed the Doncaster St Leger meeting as part of the 16 days he was suspended for racing the Jockey Club's touting threshold for riding of fences and had another five days suspended until January.

His record in cases involving interference is the worst among the current top eight riders under the system which was introduced earlier this year and enables stewards to judge each case on its merits.

According to Jockey Club figures Pat Eddery, who endured a similar run of bans last year, has received only two days this season. Richard Quinn, none, Kieren Fallon, eight, Frank Dettori, eight, John Reid, none, Kevin Darley, four, and Ray Cochrane, none.

"The results are interesting and proves it is quite possible to get away this season without missing a whole host of rides and successes," said David Pipe, director of public affairs at the Jockey Club.

Weaver is expected to keep the ride on Double Trigger despite his reluctance to make sufficient use of the Mark Johnston-trained stayer at Longchamp.

It could be argued his tactics were positively inspired set alongside the efforts of Cash Amussen on Oscar Schindler in the Arc.

The Irish St Leger winner's next target is likely to be decided on "the toss of a coin" as owner Oliver Lehane argues against the Melbourne Cup and Breeders' Cup Turf.

Kevin Prendergast, trainer of Oscar Schindler, is keen on the Melbourne Cup - with the proviso that Michael Kinane rides.

"Michael is a wonderful find," said Lehane. "But we both thought we had made the right decision when booking Cash Amussen to ride in the Arc. Oscar Schindler has had four different jockeys on his last five starts and Michael will be available when he next runs."

York card with guide to the form

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.00 Bleeding Arrogant | 2.00 Pasternak |
| 1.30 Ring Afloat | 4.00 Cyberwelder |
| 1.00 Reddusham | 4.00 Wolf Mountain |
| | 1.00 Turbans |
- Draw the advantage. Going Good. 1-2 Distant Mishap. Figures in brackets after horse's name show odds before latest selling.
- 2.00 **BENTLEY-FRENCH COLLECTIONS HANDICAP** 5YO M 26.18
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 101 34642 BRISBANE MANOR (10) 7 | 8 |
| 102 541 GAINOR STORM (5) M 7 | 9 |
| 103 6350 BIRLA DETECTOR (11) 7 | 10 |
| 104 21 LAMBERT (10) 7 | 11 |
| 105 16335 BIRLA DETECTOR (11) 7 | 12 |
| 106 40126 TURKISH (10) 7 | 13 |
| 107 25 BLOODING ARROGANT (10) 7 | 14 |
| 108 14212 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 15 |
| 109 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 16 |
| 110 14333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 17 |
| 111 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 18 |
| 112 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 19 |
- 3.00 **ADRIANO LITA HANDICAP** 3YO M 26.18
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 801 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 802 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 803 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 804 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
| 805 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 5 |
| 806 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 6 |
| 807 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 7 |
| 808 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 8 |
| 809 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 9 |
| 810 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 10 |
- 4.00 **CONSTITUTIONAL HANDICAP** 4YO M 26.18
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 901 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 902 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 903 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 904 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
| 905 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 5 |
| 906 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 6 |
| 907 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 7 |
| 908 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 8 |
| 909 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 9 |
| 910 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 10 |
- 5.00 **STATIONERY HANDICAP** 5YO M 26.18
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1001 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 1002 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 1003 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 1004 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
| 1005 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 5 |
| 1006 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 6 |
| 1007 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 7 |
| 1008 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 8 |
| 1009 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 9 |
| 1010 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 10 |
- 6.00 **NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP** 5YO M 26.18
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1101 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 1102 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 1103 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 1104 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
| 1105 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 5 |
| 1106 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 6 |
| 1107 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 7 |
| 1108 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 8 |
| 1109 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 9 |
| 1110 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 10 |

Towcester National Hunt programme

- 3.50 **FORWARD PASS HANDICAP** 4YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 11122 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 4 |
- 4.20 **WOLBOLLA HANDICAP** 4YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 11122 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 4 |
- 4.50 **CONVULSIVE HANDICAP** 4YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 11122 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 45333 WOLBOLLA (10) 7 | 4 |

Nottingham runners and riders

- 2.10 Chiplet
- 2.40 Alaphant (alt)
- 2.10 Clontar
- 2.40 BOUTERVILLE (alt)
- 4.10 Scarpetta
- 4.40 Miss Pym
- 6.10 Turbans
- 2.10 High numbers last in 2.40, 3.40. Going Good to Fair. 2 Distant Mishap.
- 2.10 **ADRIANO LITA HANDICAP** 3YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
- 3.00 **ADRIANO LITA HANDICAP** 3YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
- 4.00 **CONSTITUTIONAL HANDICAP** 4YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
- 5.00 **STATIONERY HANDICAP** 5YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |
- 6.00 **NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP** 5YO M 26.18
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 1 |
| 2 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 2 |
| 3 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 3 |
| 4 10333 BENTLEY-FRENCH (10) 7 | 4 |

Results

1.00 - 3.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 1.00 - 1.30: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 1.30 - 2.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 2.00 - 2.30: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 2.30 - 3.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White...

Warwick

1.30 - 2.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 2.00 - 2.30: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 2.30 - 3.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 3.00 - 3.30: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White... 3.30 - 4.00: WOLBOLLA (10) 7, W. White...

Rugby League

Super moves but ARL gets cash boost

John Huxley

RUPERT MURDOCH'S global Super League plans continued to unfold yesterday...

On both sides of the world Super League moved quickly to take full advantage of its astonishing appeal...

Last night it seemed less likely that the ARL would accept Friday's verdict...

Reports from Australia say that Optus, which financed the Australian league last year...

Last weekend the ARL's options had seemed limited to running its competition alongside the Super League version...

Testing times for second-string Lions

Andy Wilson in Auckland

GRAND BRITAIN'S undefeated tour record will come under stern examination before the opening Test against New Zealand on Friday week...

hooker Tukere Barlow, who made modest impacts with Wakefield and Warrington respectively...

Team talk

Table with 5 columns: Team, Opponent, Date, Venue, Score. Lists various football fixtures.

CALLS COST 50P PER MIN MON-FRI, 50P-SUN AND 45P PER MIN AT ALL OTHER TIMES...



Call to the captaincy... John Collins leads Scotland against Estonia tonight in the absence of the suspended Gary McAllister

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW ASHTON

World Cup qualifiers, Group Four: Estonia v Scotland

Scotland on automaton alert

Patrick Glenn in Tallinn on disciplinary dangers for Craig Brown's team tonight

SCOTLAND'S manager Craig Brown is much more worried about the danger of further disciplinary action against his players than the threat posed by Estonia here tonight...

He believes that international referees are being turned into automatons by Fifa edicts and the forceful pre-match verbal reminders from the world governing body's official observers...

next nine games, in which he was ever present. Tonight the Monaco midfielder will be in charge of a team with two central defenders...

But there is a certain return for Bolton's 22-year-old striker John McGinlay. Chelsea's John Spencer having flown home yesterday with a hamstring injury...

He was substituted after 39 minutes. Darren Dods taking over as captain, and Hamilton left in the second half after suffering a shoulder injury in colliding with his team-mate Gary Naysmith...

European Under-21 Championship: Estonia 0, Scotland 1

Hamilton ends drought

He was substituted after 39 minutes. Darren Dods taking over as captain, and Hamilton left in the second half after suffering a shoulder injury in colliding with his team-mate Gary Naysmith...

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland v Macedonia

Irish goal record fuels Aldridge's hunger

Charlie Stuart in Dublin

THE 36-year-old John Aldridge will be given the opportunity tonight to score a place in the Republic of Ireland record books when he takes on Macedonia's defence in the World Cup qualifier at Lansdowne Road...

In August. But the manager insisted: "There are a lot of promising young players coming through the ranks..."

Championship qualifiers. "When you look at last weekend's results, with Northern Ireland held to a draw by Armenia in Belfast and the Ukraine beating Portugal in Kiev, that should be sufficient warning," he said...

Cardiff threaten Lee with law

CARDIFF CITY have taken legal advice and threatened Francis Lee's Manchester City with court action...

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Tennis, Chess, and Rugby Union.

Fixtures

Table of upcoming sports fixtures including Soccer, Rugby Union, and Basketball.

Cardiff threaten Lee with law

CARDIFF CITY have taken legal advice and threatened Francis Lee's Manchester City with court action...

Large advertisement for Headgear featuring a 'Head' logo and various slogans like 'Head in brief', 'Promotion Britain in Danger', 'Irrish battling', 'Guards hope to call', 'Italian fans held for', 'Bedgwick king for', 'Hampten retires a'.

Cricket

Headingley back down memory lane

Martin Kettle remembers great moments in the stadium which will 'always be more than the ageing hulk it has now become'

YOU can't be born and brought up in Headingley as I was and feel anything but a bit rejected today. Even now, when I say I come from Leeds...

round the corner in Bennett Road and I can remember one of the teachers telling us in horror in the lunch-hour that England were 17 for three against Australia...

Mellor said at Bournemouth yesterday, clichés are what they are partly because they are true — yet those Roses matches of the late 1950s were epic events. For one thing the ground was packed — inconceivable today...

Jimmy Binks, Don Wilson ducking to avoid a bouncer and being caught at the wicket when the ball nicked the bat as he held it aloft...

ing Bramall Lane and Park Avenue in the great necropolis of Yorkshire grounds. Perhaps that's right. It hadn't kept up as a Test ground...

an embarrassment not a source of pride. And now, as always, there's nowhere to park around St Michael's Lane and Cardigan Road...

football stadiums to be crammed into the parts of cities where most of them are today. I know there can be no going back. My worry is this...

Yorkshire seek illumination over new ground

YORKSHIRE will seek to become the first county to stage official floodlit cricket if their proposed £32 million White Rose Stadium gets the go-ahead...

if grant aid is forthcoming, will consider asking the English Cricket Board for freedom to schedule a limited number of day-night matches at their 30,000 all-seater stadium...

"I certainly hope that we would play some day-night matches at the new stadium," Hassell said yesterday. "We aim to become a northern rival to Lord's and might even be able to stage a Benson & Hedges Cup final on that basis..."

Sport in brief

Promotion boost for Britain in Davis Cup

GREAT BRITAIN'S tennis captain David Lloyd can envisage good chances of promotion after yesterday's draw for the Davis Cup. His team need win only two ties next year to rejoin the elite 16 nations of the World Group in 1998...

Zimbabwe's two best players are the Black brothers Byron, the world No. 49, and Wayne, No. 248. The Ukraine have Andrei Medvedev, once the world No. 4 and still No. 31, but their next-best player Andrei Rybalko is ranked only 383...

Steffi Graf, forced by a knee injury to pull out of the Leipzig Open tournament last week, will also miss the European Indoors in Zurich next week for the fourth year in a row...

Marshall battling back

PETER MARSHALL, the first Briton to reach a World Open squash final, is attempting a comeback this autumn after an 18-month battle with the mysterious illness known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, writes Richard Jago. The former world No. 2 from Nottingham will play for the Hertfordshire club Broxbourne in the SRA National League...

Fiona Geaves and Linda Charman led an English charge at the Ferrier Women's World Open championship in Malaysia yesterday, winning their opening matches within 20 minutes. Geaves defeated Amy Milnes of the United States and Charman beat Louise Finnegan, Ireland's sole qualifier...

Bears an endangered species

A FRESH crisis at Oldham Bears surfaced yesterday when shareholders were warned that the Super League rugby club will collapse without increased income from the turnstiles and commercial activities. Accounts to May 31 1996 revealed a gross deficit of £1,087,323 and a deficit of £75,185 on the profit-and-loss account...

Guards hope to calm Storm

THE Derby Storm are hoping to arrest their recent Budweiser Basketball League decline by signing two guards to replace the sacked American Rod Gregoire, writes Robert Pryce. Their former England gunner Kurt Samuels returns after a 10-day trial with Verona, and Mickey Pradier, a young American point guard out of Canisius University, is parked in Calais awaiting a work permit...

Italian fans held for extortion

NINE supporters of AS Roma have been placed under house arrest while police investigate allegations of theft, menacing behaviour and attempted extortion against the Italian First Division soccer club. Three of the nine are suspected of having used messages against club officials and two hour operators to try to obtain cut-price travel and tickets for Roma's UEFA Cup quarter-final away leg against the Czech side Slavia Prague last March...

Sedgwick king for a day

THE British Chess Federation's international director David Sedgwick, ranked only 334th in England, scored the upset of the Isle of Man's Monarch Assurance Open when he drew with the Ukrainian grandmaster Mikhail Brodsky, writes Leonard Borden. Keith Arkell, the former Midlands champion, shares the lead with the top seed Vladimir Tkachiev from Kazakhstan after four rounds of the £10,000 event.

Hampsten retires at 34

ANDREW HAMPTEN, the only American to win the Tour of Italy, has announced his retirement at 34. During his 12-year career as a professional cyclist he also won the Tour of Switzerland twice and finished fourth in the Tour de France, winning the prestigious mountain stage to L'Alpe d'Huez in 1992. He spent most of his career on the European circuit, riding for such teams as La Vie Claire and Banesto, and has settled in the Italian town of Castagneto Carracci.



Last orders please... the Harlequins captain at his Courage best, answering punters' questions during his pub performance. PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

Small beer as Jayce is called to the bar

Eddie Butler gets spaced out at the Jason Leonard show in the Kings Arms

THE grand entrance of the captain of Harlequins, that dangerous outsider for the captaincy of England, was stage-managed with all the care you would expect in the age of sport as showbiz. The minders from Courage, the brewer and sponsor, darted back and forth, calculating how many minutes the star should be held back in order to maximise the wow-factor of his appearance...

Kings Arms," he mused. "There's the Barry Army, the Pope's Grotto, the Swan, the Cabbage Patch, the Anchor..." "I know," I slurred. "But the Kings Arms... Sorry, mate. But I tell you what, there'll be standing room only for Jayce."

invitation-only club. Crowds, who needed them? All that mattered was a chap's pedigree. Public school, Army, university. Two will do, three is even better. Oxbridge a bonus. And now they are the NEC Harlequins. And for post-match television interviews the guys can take their NEC baseball caps off only if they are talking about international rugby, not the club.

There was room to stand, to sit or to compose an ode to solitude. NEC does not want to be associated with strikes. And Jason Leonard of Barking, Essex, successor to Will Carling of Sedburgh, Durham University and the Army, was outside the Kings Arms waiting for his cue to enter.

hand-off. That didn't leave many slips of paper. There were a few about the England captaincy. Lawrence Dallaglio is the favourite but Leonard has a bit of form. Again, our boy was coy. It is difficult to know what he did before he became J Leonard, professional player. I always thought he was a cabinet-maker, and had this vision of him dovetailing some ornate worktop in a chirpy East End workshop. But then someone told me he banged together pallets for forklift trucks to throw around...

Sailing

Fire aboard 3Com but crew decide to press on for victory

Bob Fisher. FIRE is the last thing any offshore racing crew would want, but the crew of 3Com, competing in the BT Global Challenge, had to deal with an electrical blaze in the generator room. 3Com was then 40 miles east-north-east of Las Palmas in the Canaries, running under spinnaker and full mainsail. They doused the fire and turned off all power supplies from the batteries at their master switches...

in the Canaries, running under spinnaker and full mainsail. They doused the fire and turned off all power supplies from the batteries at their master switches; then the skipper David Tomkinson had to think quickly. Las Palmas is almost the last possible stopping point on this leg, but to go there would mean losing an enormous amount of ground to the other 18 boats. As the overall prize is on cumulative time, the crew were unanimous that they should go on.

They found melted wiring from a suppression unit to a relay switch on the 27hp generator engine. Tomkinson had to check each circuit with a bulb and dry cells and needs "a complete new wiring-loom section plus damaged components, when identified, to effect proper repair". Meanwhile he will cannibalise wiring from less needed equipment.

3Com was 10th in the fleet yesterday afternoon, as Mike Golding with Group 4 found a stronger breeze further west and led Toshiba Wave Warrior by 18 miles.

Hockey

Scotland finally find their touch

FIRST-half goals from Chris Anderson and Richard Freedland against Kenya yesterday were enough to give Scotland their first win in the preliminary round of the World Cup in Cagliari, Sardinia. The 2-0 win took them to the play-offs for positions nine to 12, while Kenya will contest places five to eight.

Wales can still secure the last place in the second phase after Switzerland staged a comeback to draw 3-3 with China, who had needed a win to qualify at the expense of the Welsh. Ireland defeated Italy 3-1 despite being one down. Julian Stevenson, David McAnulty and Bobby Taylor scoring the goals.

Fallon back in England frame

THE Richmond wing Jim Fallon has become the first player to be called into an England squad after switching back to rugby union from rugby league. He is named in an extended squad for today's training session at Bisham Abbey.

The former Leeds rugby league player, who returned to his first club in the summer, won four England A caps while with Bath in 1992 before switching from union in the same year.

The Gloucester fly-half Mark Mapletoft, in outstanding form in a struggling side this season, Sale's centre Jos Baxendell and the Richmond flanker Rob Leach are also drafted into the squad. The Wasps centre Damian Hopley returns after a knee injury. The newcoers deputise for the injured three-quarters Phil De Glanville, Jim Naylor and Will Greenwood and the Wasps back-row forward Peter Scrivener.

Harlequins have switched their Wigan rugby league import Gary Connolly to full-back for tonight's Anglo-Welsh match in Cardiff. The Great Britain centre, who has scored four tries in four games since signing a winter contract, replaces Jim Staples, one of 11 players rested after Quins demolished Orrell 89-18 last Saturday. Will Carling also steps down, allowing his fellow England squad member Paul Challenor a chance to reclaim the fly-half jersey before Quins' European Cup opener against Ulster next week. Cardiff give the Wales wing Simon Hill little recovery time after Saturday's Test victory over Italy, naming him in an all-international three-quarter line with Nigel Walker, Mike Hall and Gareth Jones. Hill's Wales colleagues Jonathan Humphreys and Hemi Taylor are also required as replacements.

Cancer shock for champion cyclist, page 13

Challenge yacht fights the flames, page 15

Packer pledges support for ARL, page 14

Yorkshire plan floodlit cricket, page 15

Sports Guardian

VISITORS MISS KEY MEN FOR WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

David Lacey on Glenn Hoddle's attempts to revive the spirit of Euro 96 when he makes his Wembley managerial debut tonight

Pole position for England

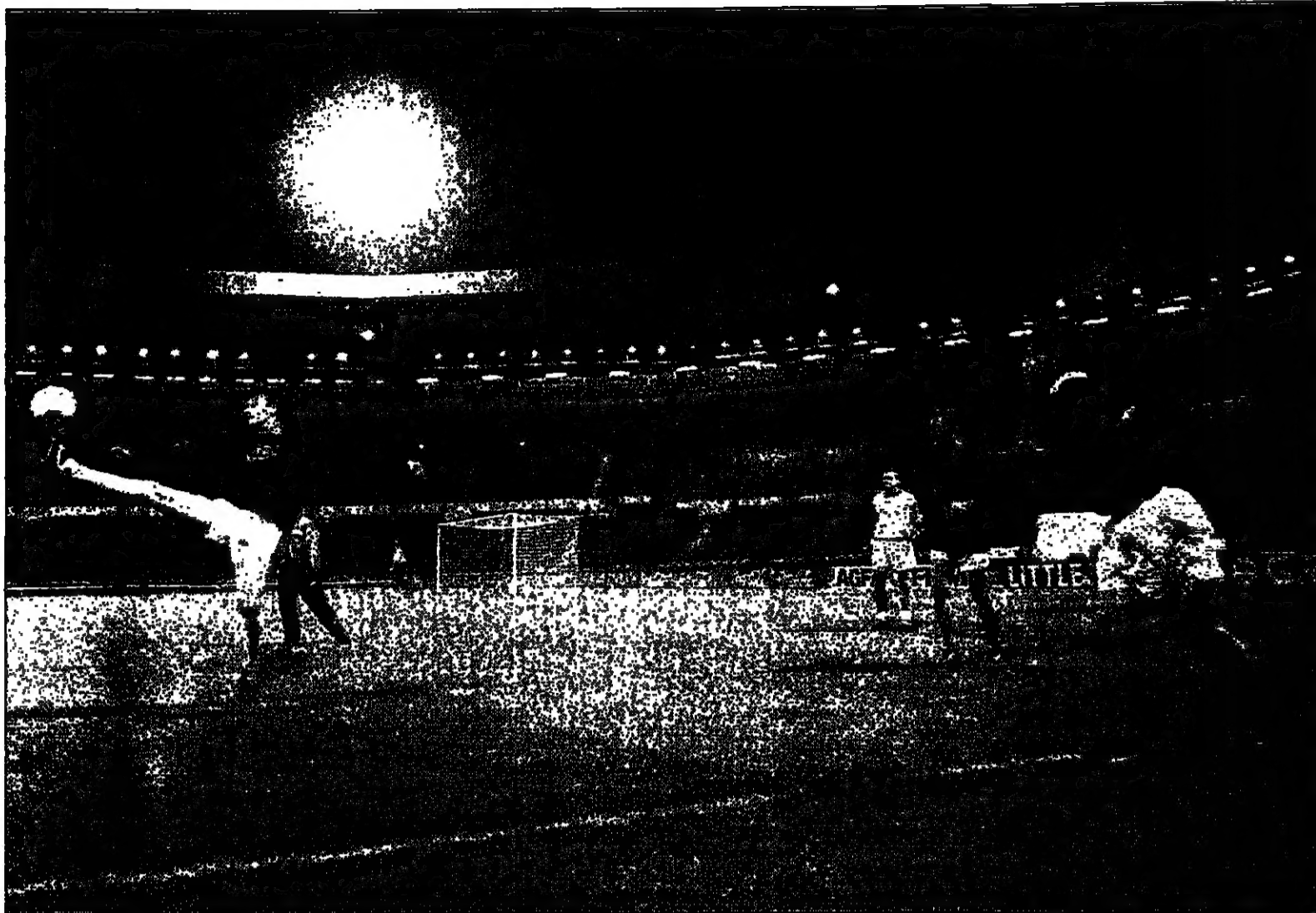
ENGLISH football's latest homecoming should leave Wembley feeling reasonably sanguine about Glenn Hoddle's chances of succeeding where Graham Taylor failed, by taking England to the 1998 World Cup in France. If Alan Shearer gets the proper service, and in particular the right quality of cross, against Poland tonight the international scoring form he discovered during the European Championship will surely do the rest.

A repetition of the 3-0 victory Hoddle achieved against Moldova five weeks ago in his first match as Terry Venables' successor is more than likely. Poland's team, without a win in a dozen games, are in a poor state: out of form and fractious, with several overseas players at odds with the coach Antoni Piechniczek, and the man most likely to pose problems for the England defence, Juszkowiak, out of the squad and sulking.

Kowalczyk and Ivan have also quarrelled with Piechniczek and refused to play. Tonight Poland will pack their midfield and hope Nowak's vision can surprise England on the counter, as a more accomplished Polish side did 23 years ago in eliminating Alf Ramsey's team from the 1974 World Cup with a 1-1 draw at Wembley.

Talk of that result crops up whenever England play the Poles at home, although subsequent meetings have seen Poland beaten 3-0, 2-0 and 3-0 again. Though the teams of Bobby Robson and Taylor scrambled draws in Katowice and Poznan, the spell Poland might once have cast over English ambitions in major tournaments surely disappeared with Gary Lineker's hat-trick in the 1988 World Cup. Maybe it is Shearer's turn for one now.

When the draw for this qualifying tournament was made it was easy to assume Poland would be the dark



Silent practice... Poland's squad warm up for Glenn Hoddle's team in the vast emptiness of Wembley last night

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

horses in England's group, just as Norway proved to be last time. Tonight's results, both at Wembley and in Perugia, where Italy play Georgia, will test the truth of that assumption. Maybe the Georgians will loom larger on England's horizon than the Poles. In

that case it will be even more important for Hoddle's team to turn in the sort of performance tonight which will leave them confident to face Georgi Kinkladze and company in Tbilisi on November 8. Even if England win with the ease of their 4-1 victory over Holland during Euro 96,

celebrations may be premature. Too many fatted calves have been dished up only for England to find themselves among the left-overs. Beating Italy at Wembley in February will give Hoddle his best chance of topping Group Two and avoiding the possibility of a play-off to reach the

tournament proper. Beating Poland tonight is merely a means towards that end. In the matter of team selection Hoddle has said plenty over the past week without actually saying anything. No possibility has been dismissed but no probability has been acknowledged.

Naturally, with Ferdinand now joined by Shearer at Newcastle, the question of both leading the England attack has been discussed at length. It would be surprising, however, to see Ferdinand starting tonight, partly because this sort of combination seldom works at major tournament level but as much because, as Shearer admits, the pair are still working things out at St James' Park.

In any case, why leave out Barby after his encouraging performance alongside Shearer in Kishinev? The only team change Hoddle need make now would be to recall McMannan to float behind the front runners and omit Hinchcliffe. Either way

much rests on Shearer, Ince and whatever cameo Gascoigne can provide. Memories of the way Taylor began his attempt to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, when Rekdal's late goal for Norway forced a 1-1 draw at Wembley after the home side had dominated, are still relevant. Even an impoverished Poland

attack would not ignore the space Hoddle's three-man defence allowed Moldova at the start of last month's game. High though English hopes might be after Euro 96, moreover, it is pertinent to point out that in their last 10 competitive fixtures at Wembley, discounting penalty shoot-outs, England have drawn as many times as they have won. Now seems as good a time as any to tip the balance.

IN ENGLAND (probably): Seaman (Arsenal); Pallister (Man U), Southgate (A Villa), Pearce (Notts Forest), G Neville, Beckham (both Man U), Ince (international), Shearer (Newcastle), Barby (Middlesbrough). POLAND (probably): Wozniak, Zielinski, Wegzyn, Juszkowiak, Wojcik, Michalski, Brzezinski, Nowak, Cichy, Hajto, Wargocki.

Also-rans in the league of nations



Jim White

GARY LINEKER's dentist ought to have taped last Saturday's Football Focus and sent copies to potential clients. Rarely can the Lineker dental work have had such an airing as it did during the brief history of Anglo-Polish footballing encounters that formed the programme's centrepiece.

After watching himself scoring goal after crucial goal against the unfortunate Poles, often accompanied by the sound of Jimmy Hill losing all sense of impartiality in the commentary box, the Lineker grin was on full beam, teeth glinting off the studio lights. "I used to enjoy playing Poland," he said with an understatement that might have been scripted by Desmond Lynam.

Yet, in the history of Poland-England encounters, it is not Lineker's one-man annexation of games that has etched itself on the national psyche. We seem to have forgotten, for instance, that it was his goals against Poland that took England to the 1988 European Championship. Graham Taylor forgot it almost immediately, and he was manager at the time.

Rather we prefer to remember the gloomy November night in 1973 when Poland came to Wembley and in 90 minutes exposed the canard that the Seventies were some kind of sunlit upland for English football, an era patrolled solely by world-class, ball-juggling geniuses.

Hunter's girls miskick, Clarke and Bell playing pinball off the woodwork, Tomaszewski's invitation to Brian Clough to get a large knife and fork and eat his words, those are the bleak images of that night of ignominy.

Indeed, Lineker did not invite Peter Shilton to join him on Football Focus to celebrate the great goalkeeper's century-plus of caps, still less to provide a showcase for Shilton's wiper wit, but rather to have him explain why he had belly-flopped over a pallid drive to allow the Poles their goal.

Shilton's only realistic defence was to plead the O J Simpson line; after all he was clearly somewhere else at the time the crime was committed. There was an odd air of injustice about that result, a

sense that Poland really shouldn't have been allowed to do that sort of thing, depriving us of our rightful place in the World Cup fun and subjecting us instead to a summer of Scottish triumphalism. What happened that night was that the old world order was turned over, and with it the certainties of a generation, a trauma barely dissipated with time. The shock was all the more acute because major upsets are comparatively unusual in international tournaments. Like our own dear Premiership, international football increasingly resembles a cosy cartel carve-up: only four or five teams ever win anything.

The parallels between our domestic hierarchy and that of the international game are uncomfortably close. Italy, for instance, are the Arsenal of world football: favouring the dour, giving nothing away at the back, prone to scandal. Brazil are the Liverpool: the longest record of success, brilliance recently tempered by pragmatism, capable of wearing bad suits. France are the Newcastle: the romantic favourite, high on expectation, low on achievement. And Germany are the Manchester United: they win everything and everyone hates them.

The analogies for the British nations in the international league make less than comfortable reading. Scotland are the Coventry City: they have managed to stay in the top flight for decades without ever looking like winning the title, and indeed without anyone quite understanding how they stay there. Wales are Northampton Town: once they were contenders, but so long ago that everyone assumes it was an administrative mix-up. And Northern Ireland are the Brighton: in catastrophic decline, perched perilously above the drop into the minor leagues, an outfit so demoralised that their manager recently considered taking on Manchester City.

ENGLAND, meanwhile, are the Chelsea: they won a cup longer ago than most of us care to remember, a one-off followed by generations of disappointment; recently, though, the arrival of a couple of enlightened coaches, a couple of semi-finals and suddenly their followers are deluding themselves they are ready to compete with the big boys again.

In which case, may I be hoping that tonight Poland turn out to be what their record suggests: they are the Sunderland of international football. They had their glorious moment at Wembley in 1973, but have done absolutely nothing since.

NEWCAS

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BACK LABELS

Academics, unless they are French, dislike conspiracy theories. Politicians, who retail them in private, dismiss them in public. Journalists, who like to indulge in them, inevitably pour scorn on them in print. Roy Greenslade on the Diana tapes

G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,779
Set by Araucaria

Across

- Servant holds second person in (7)
- Two-headed phrase, maybe? Maybe (7)
- Religious people tried to supplant 14 (5)
- Troubles go in cycles in 14 (4,5)
- King Emperor's island has right to make music of 14 (6,4)
- Utopian requirement of 14 (4)
- Writes one-volt novel — this is one (6,5)
- How restless could be the hero of Nazi song (5,6)
- Frighten student with cover for 9 (4)
- Rule about girl with oranges and one sort of pasta (10)
- Duke beheaded by another (8)

Down

- Hard work fashionable in 14 (5)
- Err leaving 14 characters for bridge in Caldeidele (7)
- Roy's one out? Give a straight answer (3,2,2)
- Bee in 14 (6)
- Continue to nurse Achilles, for example (6)
- Gives false news about pier battered with storms (10)
- Rich man, a Pole, for what he's worth? (5)
- Spooner's vegetables from the Sun need cold water (5,4)
- Got up flower in 14 (4)
- What 14 did to get 12? (3,3,2)
- Singular effect of three sets for 6 (8)
- Whisky producer flies off with paintings (5,5)

15 12 or less, so cite a lynx (8)
16 14's author loses city, French and Deutsch, to birds (8)
17 Coloured base in 14 (6)
19 Evasive artist in 14 (6)
20 White wine from the Arabian coast (6)
23 City of Lorraine in 14 (5)
24 Divorce centre backed by person who wouldn't use it? (4)

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ABWQPR

Wednesday October 10 1996

The age of anxiety

Clark

Europe

tax

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inside